

*Fisher (G.J.)*

INAUGURAL AND ANNIVERSARY

ADDRESSES

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

AT ITS

SIXTY-NINTH SESSION,

HELD AT THE CITY OF ALBANY, FEBRUARY 2D, 3D, AND 4TH, 1875.

BY THE PRESIDENT,

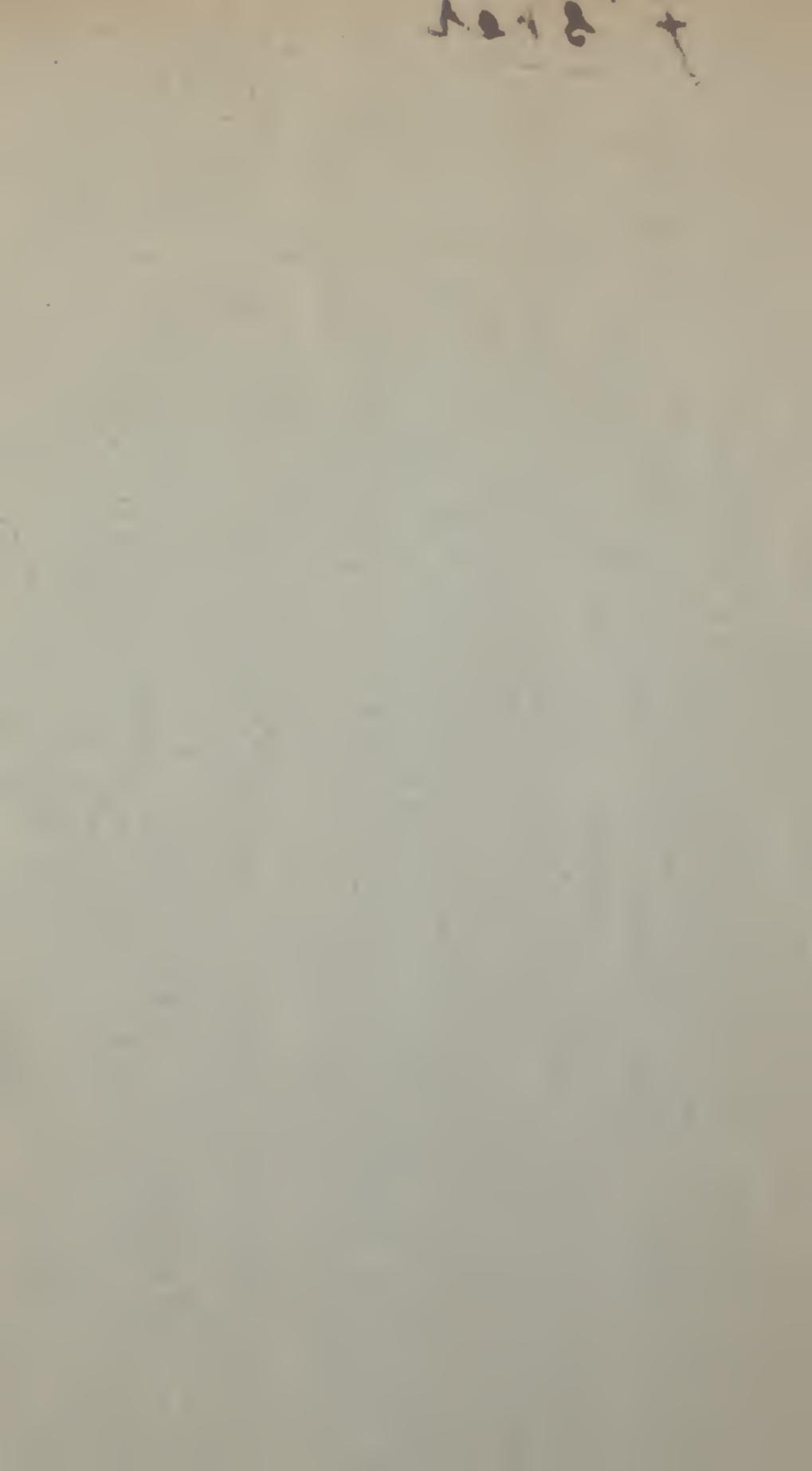
*GEORGE JACKSON FISHER, M.D.,*

OF SING SING, N. Y.



Feb 25

NEW YORK:  
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS,  
FOURTH AVE. AND TWENTY-THIRD ST.  
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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Delivered February 2d, 1875, at the Opening of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the Medical Society of the State of New York, by the President, GEORGE JACKSON FISHER, M. D., of Sing Sing, Westchester County, N. Y.

*Delegates and Members of the Medical Society of the State of New York:*

IT is alike my duty and pleasure to offer you cordial greetings on this, the sixty-ninth, anniversary of our venerable and beloved Society.

The interval of our sessions is long, and distance separates us widely from each other; stern, demanding and responsible duties, and endless and perplexing cares absorb our minds and sympathies throughout the tedious year. How eagerly do we look forward for the appointed day when, laying aside our cares, committing our patients to the charge of friends, commanding them and our families to a kind Providence, regardless of distance or the rigors of an almost arctic mid-winter, we converge from every section of our great commonwealth that we may sit down together in medical council. We come in the interests of humanity, in the name and for the love of science, to lay our offerings on the altar of progress; we come to celebrate the annual feast, to greet our old friends, to refresh, renew and increase our acquaintance with less familiar associates; to inspire our ambition and quicken our enthusiasm in all that relates to the profession of our choice. Albany has been the Mecca to which the profession has made an annual pilgrimage for an age. Let us hope and strive to make the present session no less pleasant and profitable than any that have hitherto been held in this good city.

Permit me to take this first occasion to express my gratitude, gentlemen, for the distinguished compliment of having been unanimously elected to preside over the deliberations of the largest, most active and important State Medical Society in the Union. While I appreciate the honor which you have conferred upon me, I am not insensible of my inexperience, and my inability to perform the duties of the office with the dignity and grace which has characterized so many of my very illustrious predecessors.

It is a matter of congratulation and thankfulness that the past year has been one of general prosperity and signal immunity from diseases of an epidemical or pestilential character.

I am not aware of any brilliant discoveries in any of the medical sciences which specially characterize the period since our last meeting, yet there is abundant evidence of increasing interest among the mass of physicians in the more purely scientific investigations, as well as in the literature of the profession. This is manifested by greater activity in the older medical associations and the formation of new societies, both general and special; also, by the increase of medical, chirurgical, therapeutical, gynæcological, neurological, electrological, ophthalmological, dermatological and syphilographical archives, reviews and journals.

It may be well to sustain them all, though I must confess the tendency to minute subdivision of medical topics and the multiplication of special journals and special societies may be carried too far, and thus beget a spirit of clannishness and disintegration of the *corps medicale*. Perhaps a lesson can be learned from the past history of medical journalism in this country. A recent reviewer of the catalogue of the library of the Surgeon General's Office, U. S. A. (*American Journal of the Medical Science*, April, 1874), says: "The large number of short-lived journals which have been from time to time published in our own country has often been commented upon, but we confess we were somewhat surprised to learn that the grand total of distinct medical journals issued up to the present time in the United States and British America is more than 450, and that the average number of volumes for each journal is somewhat less than five. In view of this rather melancholy record of brief existences, we may perhaps be pardoned for a little feeling of gratification in the reflection that this April number completes the ninety-third consecutive volume of our own *American Journal*."

Would it not be better for us to sustain, by our subscriptions and scientific contributions, the well-established journals, all of which have special departments, instead of giving to a limited medium what should interest the profession at large? Let us never forget the mutual dependencies existing between all the various organs and functions of the body, and the consequent unity of medicine.

This reference to the medical journals leads me to speak of our volume of "Transactions." One reason why our Society has been

favored with so small a number of medical papers in years past is undoubtedly owing to the inexcusable tardiness with which our "Transactions" have been hitherto published. This is an evil which calls for immediate reform. We had hoped that the first volume of the new or independent series would have been issued soon after the anniversary meeting, but for several causes, and perhaps chiefly the old-time custom of Albany printers, it did not reach the hands of the subscribers until the eleventh hour of exhausted patience, or literally the eleventh month of the year. Papers intended for this Society should be in complete readiness for the committee of publication without requiring subsequent revision, and a printer should be found, here or elsewhere, who will issue our annual volume with becoming promptitude. There is a popular opinion, not altogether without foundation, that an article printed in the transactions of a medical society is literally buried alive. If our volume is brought out promptly, and a copy presented to each of the leading medical journals of this country, and a few of the British, their bibliographical notices and reviews will be certain to create a demand for it equal to its merits. The papers in the various "Transactions" and "Hospital Reports" of London and Edinburgh are by no means lost to the professional world. Where there is merit there will be notoriety.

I hope the Society will authorize and direct the secretary to present, hereafter, from twenty-five to fifty copies to such journals as the committee of publication may designate.

And now, since I have taken it upon myself to make suggestions, I would respectfully ask if it would not be better in future to require but one address of the president. The so-called "Inaugural Address" is a somewhat modern innovation, having been first proposed in 1845. I see no good reason for setting apart an evening in the middle of our session for a formal "Anniversary Discourse." It has a look of consequence and pretension, and implies great expectations, which sends terror to the head and heart of presiding officers, who, like your humble servant, are unaccustomed to public speaking. Would it not serve the purposes of the Society quite as well to have but one address, which should be delivered at the opening of the session, or immediately after dinner of the first day, when the attendance would be greater, and the confusion consequent upon the organization of the Society and the arrival and registration of members would be avoided?

The address should be upon the past, present and prospective

state of the profession, with such suggestions as would be best calculated to direct the action of the Society. It should be to the Society what the Governor's message is to the Legislature.

I have prepared an address, to be delivered to-morrow evening, which consists of a brief history of this Society, from the commencement to the present time, with here and there a few commentaries and some suggestions which may be of value to the members should they be disposed to discuss the matter of change of plan in the election of permanent members, and to the committee on nominations before they decide finally upon the choice of officers for the ensuing year.\*

There are many subjects to which I would be glad to direct your attention, such as the importance of systematic drainage, and the various agencies in the production of disease over which enlightened science and intelligent art can exercise a potential influence, and thus ward off pestilential diseases, which ought to be generally understood and regarded as "God's protests against nastiness." Time will not permit me to more than glance at a few of the matters which should engage your attention.

It is my melancholy duty to announce that death has entered our ranks during the past year and removed two of our late presidents, and several of our worthy permanent members. Two of the latter, Caleb W. Haight, of Pleasantville, and Philander Stewart, of Peekskill, were my intimate personal friends and immediate neighbors, both being residents of Westchester county. The other permanent members, who have died during the past year, are Peter P. Staats and John Furgeson, both of Albany; William Tibbitts, of Mechanicville, and Samuel Shumway, of Essex.

It is with peculiar grief that I announce the death of our dearly beloved brethren, who were ever-present, cheerful and genial members and former presidents of the society—two gentlemen whose absence makes a sad void in our assembly, and whose memories will long and affectionately be cherished by us—Prof. James McNaughton, of Albany, who died in Paris, France, June 11, 1874, aged 78 years, and Daniel P. Bissell, of Utica, who died October 29th, 1874, at the age of 72 years.

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\* On reflection, it was thought best to read, from the anniversary address, that portion relating to permanent members, officers, change of time of meeting, &c., with a view to securing the early action of the Society, should it be deemed desirable to change the mode of electing permanent members, or altering the time or place of meeting.

Of the forty-nine persons who have been elected presidents of this society, death has taken every one from 1807 to 1851, inclusive; the entire list, for a period of forty-five years, is marked with the little emblematic asterisk, denoting that every one has paid the debt of nature, and that his star has set forever. Previous to 1861 five only are living, thirty-two in all are dead, and only seventeen survive.

At the head of our published "List of Permanent Members," the following resolutions, which were passed in 1849, will be found :

"*Resolved*, That in case of the death of a member of this Society, it shall be the duty of the nearest censor in the district in which he resided to transmit to the secretary a professional obituary, of suitable length for publication in the 'Transactions of the Society.'

"*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the secretary to cause to be published in the yearly 'Transactions' of this Society, a list of living members therof, with the above resolution appended thereto, and at each meeting to call the roll of members, and if any are reported as having died during the year, the presiding officer shall appoint some member to perform the above duty."

I am disposed to believe that these resolutions have been overlooked, and heretofore not carried out.

I think it would be an appropriate little mark of respect for the memory of our departed brethren to introduce into our annual volume one or more memorial leaves, headed by the words, "In Memoriam," and surrounded by a black border, on which the name, age, date of death, and place of residence of all permanent and honorary members who have died during the previous year, should be printed in large and handsome type. This is not intended to supersede the necessity for the usual biographical notices, but merely as a memorial tablet.

One of the most important matters that has perplexed the profession during the past year, has been the question of the value and practicability of the new medical registry law and the best means of carrying it into satisfactory operation. In several counties it has been entirely ignored, while in others it has been but imperfectly executed. No standard of professional knowledge has been laid down in the provisions of the bill, the candidate being merely required to furnish "a certificate from the censors of some one of the several medical societies of this State, either from the county, district, or State society; which certificate shall set forth

that said censors have found the person to whom it was issued qualified to practice all of the branches of the medical art mentioned in it."

If a doubtful candidate cannot find an easy entrance into one society, he can try another, and thus go on "prospecting" until he finds' a society of easy Regulars, easier Homœopaths, or easiest Eclectics, whose censors will readily find him qualified to practice any branch of the "*medical art*" for which he may have a preference; being thus armed with a "*certificate*" he is duly and legally prepared for registration in the county clerk's "*book*," the public in the meantime having no "*Register*, printed by authority," in which to learn his qualifications.

This is unquestionably a very defective and unsatisfactory law. It is my opinion that we want a "*Medical Act*" in this State, if not in the general government, of the same kind as that which has been in suecessful operation in Great Britian since 1858, to a brief consideration of some of the principal features of which I will direct your attention.

It is founded on the common-sense principle that "it is expedient that persons requiring medical aid should be enabled to distinguish qualified from unqualified practitioners." It establishes a "General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom," to consist of one person chosen from each of seventeen chartered medical colleges, which are specified, together with six other medical persons nominated by Her Majesty with the consent of her privy council.

This council publish annually, "by authority," a "*Medical Register*" containing the names of all "legally" or "duly qualified medical practitioners in the United Kingdom, arranged in alphabetical order, with date of registration, residence, and qualification, with the dates of obtaining the latter." The "*Medical Register*," as published, is a large-sized octavo of over 500 pages containing over 20,000 names. The council supply about 2,000 copies to the courts, coroners and other government officers for their use. It is sold at four shillings. The fee for registration is five pounds sterling. No additional fee is required to keep the name in the annual revisions of the "*Register*." All money received from the sale of the "*Register*," and for penalties for violation of the "*Medical Act*," to be applied for expense of registration and the execution of the act. Registered persons only enjoy the right to practice and collect fees; they are also exempted from serving on

juries, in the militia, or in certain public offices not desirable for physicians to hold. Unregistered persons cannot hold public medical appointments in the army, navy, or in hospitals, dispensaries, &c. No certificate is valid unless written by a registered person. Severe punishment is inflicted for obtaining registration by false representation, or falsely pretending to be registered. Legal qualification to entitle a person to registration does not require as a test or condition "an obligation to adopt or refrain from adopting the practice of any particular theory of medicine or surgery."

"The Medical Register" is authority in courts of law for "legal professional qualifications."

A careful study of this law, and its admirable operation in Great Britain, leads me to believe that, with slight modification, it could be adopted in this country.

Our Society has, from time to time, published the medical laws of the State of New York. As much confusion exists in the minds of many of our profession as to what laws are now operative, and which have been repealed, it would appear to be desirable that all the laws relating to the medical profession should be properly codified, and I accordingly recommend that the Society appoint some suitable person to perform this duty.

I desire to call your attention to a subject which has been discussed to some extent in former years.

This Society has for sixty-nine years, without a single exception, held its anniversary meetings in this city, always commencing the first Tuesday in February. Recently the question of the propriety and advantage of a change of both time and place of meeting has been suggested, in view of several considerations.

The original and chief objects of contemporaneous sessions of the State Medical Society and the Legislature was a presumed mutual benefit, the former to be consulted in an advisory and professional manner upon matters relating to public health and required sanitary enactments, and the latter to return the compliment by protecting the medical profession and the general public from the pretensions of irregular and unscientific systems of medicine and every form of arrant quackery, which then, as in all times past, now, and perhaps in future, will continue to delude that large element of every community that responds to the note of the loudest clarion, that enrolls itself under the banner of novelty and so-called reform, and whose sympathies are the result of defective information and constitutional credulity.

Now that we have been cast aside by the Legislature, after having been reduced to the general level of all medical sects and pretenders, our council ignored, all protective legal enactments abrogated, our contributions to the science of prolonging life virtually declared to be trash, unworthy of a place even among that mass of questionable legislative literature which annually issues from the prolific presses of the public job printers; having been thus compelled to assume an independence which will undoubtedly result in every way to our prosperity, activity and utility, and assuredly to our dignity and honor, we now have nothing to look for or to expect from our "most potent, grave and reverend seigniors," our "very noble and approved good masters," and hence it would appear that we have scarcely any good and sufficient reason for hereafter leaving our houses and our firesides (stoves, registers and steam pipes) in the dead waste and middle of the most inclement season of the year, and at an arbitrary and fixed date, which invariably brings us in this crowded capital in contact with the legitimate and illegitimate branches of the Legislature, delegates to the State Agricultural Society, the State Military Association, the Court of Appeal, the Conclave of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York, &c., so that we, the humble disciples of *Æseulapius*, are crowded into the attics of lofty hotels, and jostled at every turn by honorables and dishonorables, by judges and jurists, generals of high and low degree, worshipful masters, sir knights and royal archers.

Yet, with all these objections, I am not fully prepared to say that either a change of time or place of meeting will be likely to prove advantageous to the best interests of the Society.

We are, perhaps, singular in this respect, as I am not aware that any other State medical society meets in mid-winter, or always in the same locality. If our sessions were held in September, as proposed by one of my predecessors, we would have the advantage of the attendance of many medical professors, who are now debarred by the occurrence of this meeting at a time when the medical colleges are in full blast.

If the Legislature would graciously grant us a commodious room in the new capitol, be it the same that I shall propose in my anniversary address for a medical department of the State Library, wherein we can in future hold our annual meetings surrounded by the accumulated bibliographical wealth of our profession, cabinets of instruments, models, specimens of the *materia medica*,

portraits and busts of medical worthies, and everything calculated to endear us to the spot, I think we would waive the consideration of change of place, and at a more congenial season of the year continue our annual pilgrimages to what we would then regard the medical Mecca and the temple of AEsculapius.

I am aware of the value of your time, and your impatience to proceed to the active business of the Society, and yet I feel impelled by the necessities of our profession and the wants of the community, to ask your renewed efforts in behalf of the insane of the State.

That nervous disorders have increased very rapidly for some years past, is a well-known fact. That insanity, which is the highest type or expression of neurotic disease, has also increased, would be a logical inference, hardly requiring in its support the confirmation to be found in the census returns.

It is certainly a source of satisfaction that through the efforts of our profession insanity has been eliminated from the domain of demonology, and placed upon a basis of rational medical treatment; that a disease which dethrones reason, the highest attribute of man, is now recognized as a bodily malady as amenable to remedies as other forms of bodily ailment. Dr. Edward Jarvis, referring to the curability of insanity, remarks: "In a perfect state of things, when the best appliances which the science and skill of the age have provided for healing are offered to the lunatics in as early a stage of their malady as they are to those who are attacked with fever or dysentery, probably *eighty*, and possibly *ninety*, per cent. would be restored, and only *twenty*, and perhaps *ten*, per cent. would be left among the constant insane population."

In confirmation of this statement of Dr. Jarvis, I quote the following from a recent report of the State Asylum at Utica:—"Oneida county sends all her insane here at once, and the result is a large percentage of cures and a very slow increase of incurables. From January, 1843—the opening of the asylum—to January, 1865, Oneida county sent 796 patients—489 at public and 307 at private charge. Of these 796 patients there were, January 1, 1865—

" In this Asylum at public charge-----	32
"     "     " private " -----	10
" Oneida County Asylum-----	50
	—
	92
" Since recovered or now convalescent-----	7
	—
	85

"Of the 85 who remain uncured at public and private charge, 9 were epileptic, 1 paralytic, 18 chronic cases, and 12 were demented imbeciles when admitted, and were received only for custodial care."

From the above table it appears that but 85 out of 796, or about ten per cent. of the whole number treated, is left among "the constant insane population" of Oneida county, and of these 85 we are informed by Dr. Gray that 40 were chronic patients when admitted to the asylum. Throwing these out, as not included in Dr. Jarvis' conditions of treatment, and there would remain but five per cent.

The following, from the report of the commissioners appointed to select a site for the Hudson River State Hospital, presents evidence as sad as it is incontrovertible of the truth of Dr. Brigham's assertion that "it is the neglect of this early treatment that fills the almshouses and asylums of the country with incurable insane." The commissioners remark:—"From the report of the late Dr. Willard it appears that there were 1,345 insane persons in the poorhouses and county receptacles of the State. On the basis of Dr. Macdonald's calculation, seven per cent., or 192, of these will recover without treatment, and 1,253 will remain in the county houses, a public charge, during the 18 years which the life tables of La Cappalain and of the English Lunacy Commissioners state as the average duration of life in the incurably insane. Estimating the weekly cost of these 1,253 at \$1.50 each, the expense of maintenance would be:—For one week, \$1,879.50; for one year, \$97,734; for 18 years of lunacy life, \$1,759,212. Could these 1,345 have received the benefits of early hospital treatment, 1,022 would have recovered. Their average period of treatment would have been 10 months, and the monthly cost of each \$16, and the aggregate expense of their care and cure would have amounted to \$163,000. The expense of providing hospital treatment for 18 years of lunacy life in the remaining 323 incurables would amount, at \$16 each per month, to \$1,116,288. The total cost of the hospital system, applied to the 1,345, would thus amount in the aggregate to \$1,279,288, against \$1,759,212, the cost of providing for the insane in almshouses and county receptacles, and leave a balance of \$479,924, or nearly a half million, in favor of hospital treatment.

In view of erroneous impressions and consequent want of sympathy which has of late manifested itself, and found expression

in the public newspapers, calculated to disparage the completion of certain hospitals for the acute insane, now in course of erection, under the plea that too much of the public money is being expended in needless ornamentation and luxurious appointments, I have felt that it is my duty to bring this subject before you, in order to elicit your influence in the communities in which you live in behalf of these great charities.

I have visited the Hudson River Hospital for the treatment of acute and recent insanity, now partly built at Poughkeepsie.

It is intended to serve over twenty counties, which pay two-thirds of the taxes levied in the State of New York. This hospital, as far as erected, is probably the best constructed and in all respects the best adapted to its purpose of any similar institution in the world. It should be completed in the same substantial, thorough and complete manner in which it was commenced, and that, too, as soon as possible.

The voice of science and humanity demands its speedy completion, and the same can be said of all similar institutions undertaken by our great and wealthy State.

There are several minor matters to which I desire to call your attention before entering upon the practical duties of presiding officer. First, that your president is unfamiliar with parliamentary rules and usages, and therefore will be obliged to beg your indulgence and ask your assistance should knotty questions arise in the course of our deliberations. It is to be hoped, however, that members will avoid technicalities and excessive punctilio.

That every gentleman who desires to speak or make any communication to the Society will be kind enough to give his name and county, unless he is assured that the president already knows him, as it is no small satisfaction for every member and delegate to know to whom they are listening, and it will also prevent the too frequent practice of whispering to each other to obtain information of personal identity.

Also, that gentlemen will avoid all conversation within this room during the sessions—a little sin of which few, in times past, have been guiltless.

That the Business Committee, and all others in authority, will prevent the distribution of catalogues, specimen numbers of journals, pamphlets, &c., during the hours devoted to the legitimate objects and work of this Society.

All these modes of advertisement should be restricted to the

ante-rooms, as much confusion and unpleasant diversion from the subjects before the Society have been experienced, on former occasions, by little "side shows" of apparatus, books, &c.

I would suggest that in future, and as far as practicable on the present occasion, gentlemen having papers of considerable length, requiring over fifteen minutes to read, should present them in abstract to the Society, with a brief summary of conclusions, sufficient to give an intelligent idea of their value, with a view to discussion. It is the interchange of ideas, and the statement of experience and personal observation, which render our sessions interesting and valuable.

## ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS.

Before the Medical Society of the State of New York, at its Sixty-ninth Annual Session, by GEORGE JACKSON FISHER, M. D., President of the Society; delivered in the Assembly Chamber, at Albany, N. Y., February 3, 1875.

*Members of the Medical Society of the State of New York:*

Three score years and nine have rolled away since the Medical Society of the State of New York held its first anniversary meeting in this ancient city.

On the fourth day of April, 1806, the Legislature passed "An act to incorporate medical societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this State."

When this law was enacted, the State of New York was divided into thirty-five counties, and now into sixty. The entire population was then about 700,000, and now 4,000,000. Then about 800 doctors, such as they were, practiced without ethics or organization or any legal restraint, and now 6,000 physicians, such as they are, make up the ranks of our State medical army—not a few of these are still sadly in need of "regulating." Then, according to the old "Gazetteers," this good city of Albany contained "a little over 1,000 houses, and 7,000 inhabitants, with their gable ends turned to the streets," and now it boasts of a population of 80,000. Four years subsequent to this period, viz.: in 1810, your then infant sister city or village of Buffalo embraced a little neighborhood of but 1,508 souls; now it is the eleventh in point of population, if not in commercial importance, among the cities of the United States. It has long since outgrown you by an amount equal to half of your present population, having the immense number of 120,000. This 40,000, of which Buffalo exceeds Albany, is a moderate figure in these days, but in 1806, aside from New York City, it would have nearly equalled the combined populations of all the other cities and large towns in the State. Then Albany, with her 7,000, was equal to both Brooklyn and Poughkeepsie combined, each having 3,500 inhabitants. Where were Troy, Utica, Syracuse and Rochester? They then had no existence! Now, this capital city, occupying the site of the second settlement after Jamestown, Virginia, made within the limits of the original thirteen

States, the point where Hendrick Hudson moored his little yacht "Half Moon," in September, 1609, and where adventurous and solid Dutchmen settled five years later, this good and ancient city of Albany now contains the same amount of population that New York City contained when the medical law above referred to was enacted. A million pairs of human lungs now breathe the air of Manhattan Island, and another million breathes that within its immediate neighborhood.

How rapid and how vast the growth! Profound hygienic problems present themselves to the conservators of the public health, and sanitarians are put to their wits to devise means to counteract the damage to life which all this condensation of humanity must necessarily occasion. In the endeavor to solve these problems, the unselfishness of our profession has been strikingly illustrated. The public little know how much difficult labor and study have been bestowed in this direction, and that too without money and without price. The broad field of "preventive medicine" requires to be extensively cultivated, and by so doing mankind will be vastly more benefited than by all that can result from mere "restorative medicine."

The selection of the proper theme for the anniversary address has been to me a source of much anxiety and perplexity. It is difficult to find a subject which is likely to be interesting to a large body like this. "Medical Progress" has served long and well, and for ages has been the favorite text and staple of a large percentage of the annual addresses before medical societies in all countries. Notwithstanding that great strides are making in every department of the medical arts and sciences, they are or ought to be sufficiently well known to every gentleman in our profession with the present easy and extensive modes of diffusing the results of the most recent activities in medical research and experience.

The press is overwhelming us with periodical and standard medical literature, with Reports, Recorders and Retrospects, Monographs, Systems and Cyclopaedias, Proceedings, Transactions and Reviews. Medical progress is our daily study.

An inquiry, extended through the annals to the beginning of this Society, shows that at eight of its anniversary sessions no address was delivered, prepared or published, owing to the absence or illness of the president.

Of the sixty which were delivered and published in the "Trans-

actions," twenty-six were on the "Medical Profession," "Medical Education," and "Medical Progress," all more or less pleasant, entertaining and useful, no doubt. Two were on subjects relating to medical jurisprudence; two on homœopathy and quackery; eight were on public health and the diseases of the State: one on the study of pathological anatomy: four were medical biographies or on medical history; six on insanity and nervous diseases; eleven were on single diseases, including puerperal fever, typhoid fever, inflammatory fever, diseases of the digestive organs, dysentery, cholera, the liver, small-pox, cow-pox, white swelling of the joints.

In casting about, almost in despair, to find a subject for this "Sixty-ninth Anniversary Address," I at last resolved to start out with a brief history of our venerable Society. In taking a retrospective glance at its aims, efforts and results, the early and subsequent condition of the medical profession of the State, I shall make no attempt at fine writing, elegance of style or rhetorie, but confine myself to plain matters of fact, with such practical observations as the various topics may suggest. I will first take a cursory view of the state of the profession when this Society came into existence; then of the Society itself, its presiding officers, its membership, the attendance, its more notable acts and suggestions, and its contributions to medical literature as found in its publications, which I have arranged under specific heads, with a view to the diffusion of a more general knowledge of their extent and value, and at the same time to facilitate future reference to this repository of medical essays. In this manner I have thought that I could do the Society the best service, and claim the merit of usefulness, even though it be at the expense of weariness, for which I must beg your pardon and crave your indulgence during the tedium of this hour.

To whom are we indebted for the comprehensive and far-seeing wisdom and the executive zeal required to originate and initiate a scheme which should at once unite the worthy members of a noble profession, not merely in a bond of common fellowship and for protection against the arrogant pretensions of quacks and charlatans, then abounding, and, if possible, exceeding in relative numbers the same class of miserable parasites with which the present age is infested, but also associating them for the more exalted and laudable purpose of improving the medical sciences and the worthy art of healing?

Few, if any, in all this assembly, numerous as are the venerable heads that I see before me, can remember to have seen any of the individuals of that little band of a dozen noble pioneers who were the founders of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

The correct story of the origin of this Society has been told and placed on record by one of its most active founders,\* its first secretary, John Stearns, who served in this capacity and as treasurer during the first eleven years of its existence, and subsequently graced the presidential chair during four successive terms.

Dr. John Stearns, while secretary, hailed from Saratoga county; from Albany during his presidential terms in 1818, '19, and '20, and at the time of his fourth election to the presidency, in 1821, he was a resident of the city of New York, where he continued to reside the remainder of his life, which terminated in 1848, at the ripe age of three-quarters of a century. I shall quote his own words: "The influence which medical societies have had upon the profession, and the general misapprehension of their origin, impart to this topic an interest which I trust will not be deemed inappropriate. This interest is enhanced by the consideration that the time will soon elapse when those who were concerned in originating this law will have passed the confines of time without having left a single record of the fact, by which the numerous errors which have obtained publicity in our scientific journals might be corrected, and justice rendered to whom it is due."

It would appear that even in the early years of the Society misapprehension prevailed in regard to the originators of the medical law and the founders of the State Society. In the first volume of *Silliman's Journal of Science*, the credit is given jointly to Drs. Bruce and Romayne of New York City, and in the address of the President of the Medical Society of the County of New York, in 1824, he gives the glory to that body, saying: "This is the parent society from which the other institutions of a similar character throughout the State have emanated." Dr. Stearns emphatically denies this, and says: "I take this occasion explicitly to state that neither Dr. Bruce, nor Dr. Romayne, nor 'this medical society,' nor any physician then resident in the city of New York, had any knowledge of the preliminary measures which led to the formation of this law, or the most remote agency in procuring its passage through the Legislature. These measures were commenced exclusively in the county of Saratoga, with a view to reclaim the pro-

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\* N. Y. Med. and Phys. Jour., Vol. 7, p. 380. 1828.

fession from that degradation and contempt to which it had been reduced by ignorance, professional broils, and the grossest empiricism.

"Those who witnessed the original and progressive settlement of the northern and western sections of this State since the year 1790 will recognize the mania that infatuated the emigrants from the East, and the ambitious projects formed by those who assumed the title of Doctor. Many who had never read a volume in medicine were suddenly introduced to an extensive practice and to a reputation of such imposing authority as to control the opinions of their superiors in science and to prescribe rules of practice for their government. Consultations were generally distinguished for gross controversies at the bedside of the patient, whose health and life were often immolated to the ignorance, prejudices or discordant theories of the contending physicians. Their skill was generally graduated by their ability to magnify the cures they had made. Gratifying, indeed, it would be, at this enlightened period, to be able to bear testimony to the total extinction of this relic of quackery, and to the abolition of that still more ridiculous and growing imposture, that indignity of our profession, which by the sign of a common vender converts the medical office, designed for the cure of all diseases, into a private infirmary for curing those only which belong to a particular organ. But so great has been the change in public opinion that empirics now seldom boast of their intuitive knowledge, their magic incantations or their initiation into the mysteries of Indian practice, but are compelled to assume the appearance of learning, and to affix to their names the fictitious appendage of M. D.—a proof that scientific physicians will always be patronized as the public mind becomes enlightened. The ignorance of the practitioners had so obscured the science of medicine, at the period referred to, that reflecting physicians united in the necessity of adopting vigorous measures for radical reform.

"In 1796 a series of numbers were accordingly published in the newspapers of Saratoga which directed the attention of the profession to the subject of instituting medical societies, and ultimately led to the formation of a society in that county, consisting of twenty-one physicians. But so discordant were its materials, and so incompetent to sustain the character of a scientific institution, that the year of its formation became the period of its dissolution. This want of success did not prevent the renewal of future efforts.

"In November, 1805, another meeting was held, at which com-

mittees were appointed and a resolution passed to invite the co-operation of the physicians of the adjoining counties of Washington and Montgomery. The following is a copy of the printed circular issued on that occasion:

“BALLSTON, November 7, 1805.

“SIR—At a meeting of physicians of the County of Saratoga, convened this day at the Court House in Ballston, for the purpose of devising means to improve the practice of medicine, we were appointed a committee to impart the object and wishes of that meeting to our professional brethren in the counties of Washington and Montgomery. In that capacity we beg leave to recommend to your earnest attention the necessity of adopting some vigorous measures for the suppression of empiricism and the encouragement of regular practitioners. The evil calls loudly for the united efforts of all who sincerely wish to remove from that valuable science the imputation of quackery, under which, from the ignorance of some of its professors, it not unjustly labors. The wish of the meeting is, to procure from the Legislature of the State their sanction to a Medical Society; and we request your attendance at the Court House in Ballston, on the 16th of January, 1806, at 10 o'clock A. M., either in person or by a committee of your county, for the purpose of adopting the best means for obtaining an act of incorporation.

“We remain, &c.,

“WM. PATRICK,

“JOHN STEARNS,

“GRANT POWELL,

*“Committee of Correspondence.*

“Pursuant to the notice of this circular, a delegation from these counties attended the adjourned meeting at the same place, on the 16th of January, 1806. A memorial to the Legislature was then reported, and adopted and signed, and a committee of three, consisting of Dr. Asa Fitch, of Washington, Dr. John Stearns, of Saratoga, and Dr. Alexander Sheldon, of Montgomery, were appointed to carry the same into effect.

“The committee from Saratoga and Montgomery attended the ensuing session of the Legislature, and, fortunately for the cause of science, the latter gentleman, Dr. Alexander Sheldon, was elected Speaker of the House. Although the meeting at Saratoga did not contemplate the extension of the law beyond the limits of these three counties, the committee assumed the responsibility of making it general, and of extending its privileges to every county in the State.

“Accompanied with this explanatory view of the subject, they presented the memorial to the House of Assembly on the 25th of February, 1806, who referred it to a committee, consisting of William Livingston and Isaac Sargeant, of Washington; Gurdon Huntington, of Otsego; John Ely, of Greene, and Joel Frost, of Westchester. The majority of this committee, being medical

men, favorably received the proposed plan for a general law to extend the act of incorporation through the State, which they finally matured and reported to the House. The powerful opposition to this bill threatened its early and prompt rejection by a large majority. The Speaker, the committee and several other members gave it a very able and vigorous support. But, notwithstanding all the exertions and political influence of its friends, the danger to which the tranquillity of the State would be exposed by the incorporation of forty distinct associations of physicians was so magnified by the opposition, and the impression thereby made upon the House was so great, that but feeble hopes were entertained of its success.

"At this critical juncture, when a decisive vote against the bill was every moment expected to be taken, the late Hon. William W. Van Ness rose its most eloquent and powerful advocate. And perhaps the pre-eminent powers of his parliamentary eloquence was never exerted with better effect. He refuted the arguments of the opposition, portrayed the benefits to the profession and to the public in such glowing colors and with so much energy and zeal, that the opposition became feeble, the friends to the bill increased, and from that moment the successful issue was rendered certain. To his memory do the profession owe a monument of marble, with their gratitude deeply engraven upon its tablet.

"On the first Tuesday of July, 1806, three months after the passage of the law, about twenty societies were organized pursuant to its provisions, and within two years scarcely a county in the State of any considerable population was without a duly organized medical society."

Dr. Stearns, in his account of the origin of this medical law, omitted to mention the important fact that it was provided in this statute that a central body should be formed, to consist of one delegate from each duly organized county society, and that its annual meetings were to be held in Albany on the first Tuesday in February. This law also provided that medical students were to be examined by either the State or county societies, from which they were to obtain diplomas, and that no persons should be allowed to practice medicine or surgery without a diploma from one of the societies. In the amendment of this law, in 1807, a penalty of twenty-five dollars was fixed for every violation of this provision. The county societies were permitted to hold property to the extent of one thousand and the State society five thousand dollars. It

was "*further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for each of the medical societies, to be established by virtue of this act, to cause to be raised and collected from each of the members of the society, a sum not exceeding three dollars in any one year, for the purpose of procuring a medical library and apparatus, and for the encouragement of useful discoveries in chemistry, botany, and such other improvements as the majority of the society shall think proper."

Having noted the circumstances which gave rise to the important law by which the medical societies of this State were established, by whom it was originated and carried forward to a successful issue, its provisions and authority, as well as its necessity and purposes, I will next proceed to the character and extent of its

#### MEMBERSHIP.

This Society is a representative body, composed of delegates, permanent and honorary members. The State of New York is now divided into sixty counties; the medical law of 1806, as we have seen, provided for the formation of a medical society for each county, and in accordance with this requirement we now have fifty-six county medical societies, only four counties having failed to organize them. It is to be hoped that ere long these few delinquents—Allegany, Hamilton, Putnam, and Wyoming—will awaken to a sense of their rights and duties by establishing societies and sending up their quota of delegates to this central body.

The representation of the county societies in the State society is established on the basis of the representation in the lower House of the State Legislature. Each county medical society in good standing is now entitled to as many delegates as its county is to assemblymen. In addition to this each regular incorporated medical college in the State can send one delegate, and the New York Academy of Medicine five. A full representation, from one hundred and twenty-eight assembly districts, eight medical colleges, and the Academy of Medicine, would give this Society one hundred and forty-one delegates. At present we are entitled to one hundred and thirty-seven. Delegates, unless permanent members, are required to serve four years, otherwise they forfeit their eligibility to permanent membership.

All of the counties of the State are distributed into eight senatorial districts. The first is entitled to forty-one delegates; the second to sixteen; the third to fifteen; the fourth and fifth each to fourteen; the sixth to twelve; the seventh to thirteen, and the eighth to sixteen delegates.

These eight senatorial districts are again arranged under four cardinal or censorial districts, viz.: The Southern, embracing the first and second senatorial districts, entitled to fifty-seven delegates: the Eastern, embrasing the third and fourth senatorial districts, entitled to twenty-nine; the Middle, embracing the fifth and sixth senatorial, entitled to twenty-six; the Western, composed of the seventh and eighth senatorial districts, represented by twenty-nine delegates. I have given these details as a part of the history of our Society, and for the benefit of some of our recent members, who may not be familiar with our plan of organization. I have also prepared a table of the counties included in each senatorial district, with the number of representatives to which they are entitled, and the number of permanent members each has had up to date.

TABLE SHOWING THE COUNTIES IN EACH DISTRICT, NUMBER OF PERMANENT MEMBERS AND DELEGATES.

	P. M.	Del.		P. M.	Del.
<b>1. SOUTHERN DISTRICT.</b>			<b>3. MIDDLE DISTRICT.</b>		
<i>First Senatorial District</i>	122	57	<i>Fifth Senatorial District</i>	106	26
New York-----	72	41	Oueida -----	57	14
New York-----	62	21	Oswego -----	32	4
Kings -----	9	9	Madison -----	10	3
Riehmond -----	1	1	Otsego -----	6	2
Five Medical Colleges			Jefferson -----	6	2
Academy of Medicine			Lewis -----	3	2
<i>Second Senatorial Dist.</i>	50	16	<i>Sixth Senatorial Dist.</i>	49	12
Westchester-----	13	3	Chenango -----	14	1
Dutehess -----	10	2	Broome -----	11	1
Orange -----	7	2	Chemung -----	6	1
Ulster -----	6	3	Steuben -----	5	2
Rockland -----	5	1	Alleghany -----	4	1
Sullivan -----	4	1	Schuylar -----	4	1
Queens -----	3	2	Tompkins -----	4	1
Suffolk -----	2	1	Livingston -----	1	1
Putnam (no soc.)-----			Cattaraugus -----		2
<b>2. EASTERN DISTRICT.</b>	133	29	Tioga -----		1
<i>Third Senatorial Dist.</i>	77	15	<b>4. WESTERN DISTRICT.</b>	97	29
Albany -----	88	4	<i>Seventh Senatorial Dist.</i>	52	13
Rensselaer -----	14	3	Onondaga -----	19	3
Columbia -----	10	2	Ontario -----	11	2
Greene -----	7	1	Cayuga -----	9	2
Delaware -----	5	2	Cortland -----	7	1
Scholarie -----	2	1	Wayne -----	4	2
Sehenectady -----	1	1	Seneca -----	1	1
One Medical College			Yates -----	1	1
<i>Fourth Senatorial Dist.</i>	56	14	One Medical College		1
Herkimer -----	15	1	Erie -----	17	5
Montgomery -----	11	1	Monroe -----	13	3
Saratoga -----	10	2	Genesee -----	10	1
Washington -----	5	2	Niagara -----	3	2
Essex -----	4	1	Chautauqua -----	2	2
Warren -----	4	1	Orleans -----		1
Clinton -----	3	1	Wyoming -----		1
St. Lawrence -----	3	3	One Medical College		1
Fulton -----	1	1			
Franklin (no soc.)-----					
Hamilton -----					

The importance of understanding these two classes of districts will be seen by the fact that four district boards of censors are annually elected for the grand districts; and that several very important committees are chosen from the senatorial districts—that on nominations, on correspondence, on statistics, &c., consisting of one member from each. Two permanent members are elected from each of the eight districts.

Dr. Nicholas Romayne, who was the third president of this Society, and Dr. Samuel Bard, the founder of the New York Hospital, were the first two permanent members and were elected in 1813. From that year to 1845, only two permanent members were elected annually. At the end of thirty-eight years the Society had but sixty-four permanent members. The following statute passed February 6, 1845:

"It shall and may be lawful for the Medical Society to elect annually, such a number of permanent members as they may, from time to time, determine by their by-laws, not to exceed two annually from any one senatorial district."

During the following nine years, to 1853 inclusive, from five to ten were elected annually, sixty-eight in all. From 1854 to 1874, both inclusive, the Society has availed itself fully of the above statutory privilege, by which it has added, during twenty-one years, three hundred and twenty-nine permanent members. Of the whole number, four hundred and fifty-eight, it is presumed that about three hundred are living, while it is known that one hundred and thirty-six have paid the debt of nature.

Of late years there has been no small amount of dissatisfaction in regard to the relative number of permanent members to the representation of the different senatorial districts, and reform in this particular has been called for. That the annual election of two permanent members from each of the eight districts, without regard to representation, is unfair, can be seen by the fact that the Sixth district is entitled to twelve delegates and the First to forty-one. The remedy which I would propose for the correction of this evil, and which appears to me to present no objectionable features, is that every delegate who actually serves the full term of four years for which he is elected, shall not only be eligible, but, in case of no positive and satisfactory objection being raised against him (or her, as the case may be), shall be elected a permanent member without delay.

When we consider the various circumstances and contingencies

which are liable to interfere with the attendance of many delegates upon our sessions, and also the fact that not unfrequently delegates are already permanent members, it would seem that no fears need be entertained of over crowding the Society, or even greatly increasing the number we now annually elect. Only thirteen were declared eligible in the year 1874.

By this plan the honor of permanent membership would be a reward of merit, being honestly earned, and any disproportion in relation to entitled representation would be just, inasmuch as it would be the result of duty performed. If this mode should be adopted it would be proper to revise our "list of persons eligible for election as permanent members," which now contains one hundred and forty-two names, by dropping all who had not actually served four years. Kings county, which is entitled to ten delegates, complains that its total number of permanent members, up to the present time, is only nine, while the four following counties, with a representation of one delegate each, have fifty-one: Herkimer having fifteen, Chenango fourteen, Montgomery and Broome, each, eleven. That the injustice of this disparity is only apparent, and not real, will be manifest when the fact is known that Kings county has not had a single person on the list as eligible since 1870.

If the auxilliary societies are anxious to have a full proportion of permanent members, they must look to it that their delegates discharge their duties, and thus render themselves eligible for this honor, and let none be sent who are unworthy of it.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS.

We now have a roll of one hundred and fifty-seven honorary members, embracing the names of some of the most distinguished gentlemen that ever graeed the medical profession. This noble list is most appropriately headed by a name memorable in this country, and not without renown abroad—one of the immortal signers of the Deelaration of Independenee: an accomplished scholar, a learned and eloquent professor, a humane and skilled physician, was Benjamin Rush, who was elected our first honorary member in 1808. Then follow the Warrens, John and John C., of Boston; Samuel L. Mitchell, David Hosack, Wright Post and Valentine Mott, of New York; Physie, Chapman and Gross, of Philadelphia; Lizars, Simpson and Dunean, of Edinburgh, and numerous others from various parts of the civilized world,

eminently worthy of the companionship. I am sorry to add, however, that not a few names are here enrolled, for what reason, except as personal favors, does not appear, since they are quite obscure and otherwise unknown to fame.

The election of honorary members is authorized by statute. Previous to 1859 only two were annually elected: since this date, six. About this time the Society passed a resolution to elect none to honorary membership except non-residents of the State. This resolve has been violated in three instances. It is to be hoped that in future this honor will be conferred with discrimination, and only on persons of great distinction.

Eighty-three, or more than one-half, of our honorary members are dead; seventy-four are supposed to be living.

#### HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

This Society does not possess the power to confer the degree of "Doctor of Medicine" in any form. The granting of license to practise medicine and surgery within the borders of this State is the extent of its prerogative. It enjoys the privilege, however, of nominating candidates, restricted by statute to four in any one year, and recommending the same to the Regents of the University for the honorary degree of M. D., providing in all cases that the candidate shall have a good moral character and enjoy a respectable professional standing, and shall have arrived at the somewhat venerable age of forty-five years or upward, and secures the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members present.

The first honorary degree thus conferred was on Dr. John Onderdonk, of New York City, in the year 1827, since which time one hundred and twenty candidates have received this degree, of whom precisely one-half have laid aside their earthly honors, their ambition and their daily toil. They have departed, let us hope, to the realms where no physician is required; where sickness, pain and death are entirely unknown.

#### ATTENDANCE.

The attendance at the first meeting was twelve; at the last, two hundred and fifty-five. It did not reach twenty-five until the fourteenth annual session. Forty-two years passed before the attendance reached fifty, and during the first half century it was never quite a hundred. The average attendance at the annual sessions of this Society for the first decade was sixteen; for the second decade, twenty-three; the third, thirty-six; the fourth,

forty-six; the fifth, sixty-four; the sixth, one hundred and forty; while for the past eight years the attendance has averaged two hundred and fourteen, thus showing a steady and rapid increase from the commencement of its career to the present time. May this, God helping us, continue to be its future destiny. We have already seen that the roll of our Society embraces four hundred and fifty-eight permanent members, one hundred and fifty-seven honorary members, and one hundred and thirty-seven delegates making a grand total of seven hundred and fifty-two. Should our surviving permanent members and the full quota of delegates, to which we are entitled, assemble at one session, we would behold an august body of nearly five hundred *Aesculapians*.

These facts ought to give us great encouragement and brilliant hopes of the future. It is not, however, mere numbers that we want, but work; yet, it is reasonable to expect that where there is much work to be done, the greater the numerical force of the laborers the more will be accomplished.

#### PRESIDING OFFICERS.

During the sixty-nine years of the Society's existence, forty-eight persons have been elected to the presidency, twenty-one of whom had previously served in the capacity of vice-president; the latter office, during the same period, has been filled by forty-three different persons, about one-half of whom, as above stated, were promoted sooner or later to the first office in the gift of the Society.

One of the presidents was elected four successive terms; three, each three terms; eleven, two terms; and thirty-three, each one term.

One of the vice-presidents, Alexander Sheldon, the first who held this office, served five years; three, each four years; two, three terms; nine, two terms; twenty-eight were elected once only.

Theodorie Romeyn Beck was honored by the Society five times, three times by the office of president and twice as vice; he in turn honored the Society all his days by virtue of the inherent principle of reflex action, and even now continues to shed a posthumous lustre, the radiance of which will exist as long as the history and character of this Society shall be cherished by its members. Dr. Beck is not the only fixed star in our galaxy: let us never forget Roinayne, and Stearns, and McNaughton, the Coventrys, Alexander H. Stephens, Blatchford and March, and other

worthies who have left us in person but continue with us in spirit.

One person filled the office of vice-president four terms, and president two; two others were twice honored with both offices; two were each vice three terms, and president one; three others each occupied the second chair twice and the first once, and ten have held both offices once.

It has by no means been a rule of the Society, in the selection of the first officer, to require a preliminary service as its second; for, of the forty-eight persons who have been elected president, twenty-seven have not been vice-presidents. Of these, one served four terms; three, three terms; seven, two terms; seventeen, each one term. Neither has it followed, as a rule, that election to the office of vice-president implied elevation to the presidency, as we find one person served in the former capacity for five terms; two others, each four terms; two, each two terms; and seventeen, for a single term, without having been raised to the sublime degree of Worshipful Master of this ancient and honorable free and accepted lodge of *Aesculapians*.

Nearly one-half of the presidents and one-quarter of the vice-presidents have been professors in medical colleges. Two-thirds of the presidents and nearly one-half of the vice-presidents were dwellers in populous cities.

Eighteen counties have furnished all of the presidents for sixty-nine years; two counties have filled three-quarters of the terms; twenty-four counties have furnished the vice-presidents; four counties have filled this chair twenty-five terms and the presidential chair forty-seven terms—in all, a little over one-half of the time.

Albany has had ten presidents, who have served nineteen years, and five vice-presidents who served eleven years. New York has also had ten presidents, covering sixteen years, and three vice-presidents. Next in order comes Oneida, which has filled the chairs eight years with presidents and three with vice-presidents; Otsego, four and eight; Monroe, three and none; Onondaga, two and four; Columbia, two and three; Rensselaer, two and three; Saratoga, two and two; Madison and Erie, each, two and one; Chenango, one and four; Cayuga, one and three; Kings, one and two; Cortland, Dutchess and Westchester, each, one and one; Chemung, one and none; Herkimer and Montgomery, each, five vice-presidents; Oswego, two; Broome, Chautauqua, Fulton, Greene, Ontario and St. Lawrence, each, one vice-president for single terms.

I have not furnished these statistics for any special purpose, or with a view to invidious comparison and critical comment, but as simple matter of fact, and as a record for future reference. I am happy to state that, in my candid opinion, little or no politics have entered into the doings of this Society; that its officers have been selected with reference to fitness and its highest scientific and professional interests. Territorial and political divisions should never in the future, more than in the past, be regarded in the choice of its principal officers. To those who have manifested a hearty zeal in the support of medical associations, by frequent attendance and by valuable contributions to the literature of the profession, or to those who, by the lustre of a brilliant career and a reputation for learning and ethical deportment, will honor the Society as much as they are honored, should its exalted positions henceforth be given.

The one-term system in the election of president has been followed by this Society for over a third of a century, with a single exception, which occurred twenty-seven years ago, when Alexander H. Stephens, who was the very type and ideal of a presiding officer, held this position for two successive terms. This should continue to be our policy, and, as far as consistent with the views above expressed, every section of the State should be fairly represented.

Before closing my observations relating to the presiding officers of our Society, I will place on record the melancholy fact that death has taken every one who presided over the deliberations of this body from its first session in 1807 to 1851, inclusive. The entire list is swept for a period of forty-five years. Previous to 1861, only five on the list of our former presidents are living. Thirty-two, in all, are dead, and only seventeen survive.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

For sixty-eight consecutive years this Society has issued its "Proceedings" and "Transactions" in some sort of style. The complete series embraces thirty-two octavo volumes, containing an aggregate of thirteen thousand pages. A little over three thousand pages are devoted to the proceedings of meetings, resolutions, laws and by-laws, lists of members, tables of contents, &c. Nine thousand five hundred pages embrace the "Transactions" proper, consisting of actual contributions made to medical literature, including prize essays and other elaborate papers, the medical topography of many of the counties of the State, histories of

interesting cases, surgical operations, &c., the whole representing an amount of literary labor, clinical observation, and suggestive research, of which we may be justly proud.

Our publications are in three series. *First*, the little annual pamphlets issued during the first quarter of a century of the organization [1807-31], containing an abstract of proceedings, the president's anniversary address, and occasionally a few medical or surgical cases, all of which were reprinted a few years ago, and included in one volume of six hundred and fifteen pages.

The *second* series consists of seven handsome octavo volumes, of over four hundred pages each, neatly printed on good paper, the scientific papers or medical communications paged separately from the proceedings, which were placed at the end of the volumes as appendices. These seven volumes, containing over two thousand pages of medical essays (and seven hundred and thirty-two of appendix), were printed at the expense of the Society, being issued in parts during the eighteen years from 1832 to 1849, both inclusive. The series was highly creditable to the erudition, as well as the enterprise and taste of the Society. The *third* series, issued under the patronage of the State, during a period of twenty-three years—from 1849 to 1872—consists of twenty-three volumes, ranging from one hundred and sixty to six hundred and fifty-five pages each, about two thousand pages being occupied with the proceedings, &c., and seven thousand to the medical papers. I do not wish to be ungrateful to the generous Legislature for all this mass of printing, of which in its bounty—a bounty that dispensed quantity at the sacrifice of quality—it issued huge editions of several thousands of copies, so that many of the volumes have proven heavy stock in the stalls of the second-hand booksellers, in tedious competition with those equally attractive and ubiquitous “Reports of the U. S. Patent Office;” yet it is a pleasant, refreshing and consoling reflection that the paper mills have, doubtless, long since re-ground the greater part of the surplus stock in this line. Politicians inform us that it was the least valuable of all their campaigning documents. It is probably due to this circumstance that we are permitted to commence a fourth series at our own expense. I hope it will prove a success, that our libraries may be graced each year with a volume as handsome in style and as rich in contents as those issued in London, by the Royal Medico-Chirurgical, the Obstetrical, Pathological, or the Clinical Societies.

Time will not permit me to take special notice of any of the

numerous and valuable contributions contained in our publications. I have, however, prepared analytical and chronological lists of all the scientific papers which have been published for and by the Society from 1807 to the present time. In performing this somewhat laborious task I have flattered myself that this would prove to be of considerable value to the members of our Society and to the profession at large, not merely in furnishing a complete and convenient reference to all that we have hitherto published, but in exhibiting the amount, variety and character of our publications, that their scientific value might be understood, appreciated and utilized in the future as in the past.

Being furnished with the means of making a complete and comprehensive survey of what we have accomplished up to the present moment, we are thus enabled to discover our weakness as well as our strength, our failures as well as our triumphs, our present responsibility and our future duties. Why should we not henceforth emulate the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society of London, whose *Transactions* for the past seventy years, embraced in fifty-seven volumes, contain the choicest, most elaborate and valuable series of medical essays in the literature of any nation on the globe? Have we not the same broad and rich field of study, equal genius to plan and talent to prosecute profound and exhaustive research, and have we not equal scholarly ability to communicate the results of our labors?

Unquestionably we have. Wherein we chiefly lack is energy and will. The drudgery of the profession absorbs the whole time and attention of too many of our brethren. "I am too much engaged in practice; I have no time to devote to special study and research," is the daily complaint of many worthy members from whom much, of right, ought to be expected. True, the life of a medical man is one of continual labor and incessant interruption; he seldom finds an hour which he can call his own, and yet it is not impossible for him to *take* time in which to read and write. Most of our medical literature, certainly the most practical and valuable part of it, was written by gentlemen who were engaged in the most active and pressing practice. Sir Astley Cooper, his nephew, Bransby, Abernethy, the Hunters, Bells, Watson, Simpson, and hosts of other British writers, were men engaged in the largest fields of every-day practice; and so with Velpeau and Troussseau, of France; Rush, Hosack, Flint, Hamilton and Gross, of our own country, are also examples of the compatibility of literary and

practical labor, and confirmers of the truth of the old adage, that "where there is a will there is a way."

I will admit that many medical men live and labor under peculiar and grave disadvantages for the pursuit and cultivation of medical literature, and to some of these I will briefly allude. One of the most essential requisites is a well selected and somewhat copious medical library, and a neat, attractive, commodious and private room or office, separate and independent of the shop or surgery, in which to bring our minds to a studious composure. There are many examples of such arrangements in cities and large towns, but I am inclined to think that the great mass of physicians—the rank and file of our profession—are sadly deficient in the means of cultivating personal habits of study and research in these pleasant and profitable fields. Therein they do themselves a grave injustice; they cheat themselves of one of the chiefest recompenses that the profession is permitted to receive, and at the same time deprive the world of light and knowledge, which in some degree should radiate from every brain that feeds on phosphorescent food.

I would respectfully suggest that every physician should make provision for an annual appropriation, of not less than from \$50 to \$250, for the increase of his professional library—for medical journals, American and foreign; reviews, hospital reports, transactions, the publications of the Sydenham Society, and the more valuable treatises, monographs, &c., which are ever issuing from the press. By this means he will not only keep himself posted with the current medical literature, and increase his love for study, but will soon accumulate a library of considerable extent and value for future reference.

Another great want, that nearly every one who has attempted special researches in any department of medicine has felt, is an extensive and accessible public medical library. While we can boast of our "State library," on which vast sums of the public money have been expended for the collection, preservation and convenient use of almost everything that relates to history, poetry, science and art, and an immense establishment exclusively devoted to works on law, our department is so meagerly and contemptibly represented that virtually it has no place in the State library. To be sure, a few medical books, apparently the result of accident, are scattered through the collection, yet so few and unimportant that they are unworthy of mention. New York is the only city in the State

that possesses a medical library of any importance. The medical library of the New York City Hospital, to which I allude, is an excellent collection, containing about nine thousand volumes. It is the property of a corporation, though at present freely accessible to the profession. There are several nuclei in process of development, but, unless accelerated more rapidly in the future than in the past, it will be a long day before they reach the point of great practical value.

What we want, as nearly as I am at present able to understand our necessities, is a large public medical library, in every way freely accessible to the entire profession of the State. We are now erecting, at munificent cost, a State Capitol of mighty and magnificent proportions and gorgeous appointments. In this vast pile the State library is to find a home. Let there be a medical department, as there now is one of jurisprudence, with the works separately shelved and catalogued, and every means taken to increase and perfect it—by purchase, donation and exchange. The annual appropriations of the State could be supplemented by the profession, through the State and county societies, and, doubtless, large additions would be made by authors and publishers, and also by testamentary bequests of entire libraries of deceased physicians. The exchange of our “Transactions” with other societies in different parts of the world, and the sale or exchange of duplicates, would furnish additional means of increasing such a library. By all of these methods a collection could be made of ancient and modern medical works, including books of great rarity and value, and the serial medical literature of all countries. It would soon vie with the National medical library, under the supervision of the United States Surgeon General, which now far exceeds anything of the kind on this continent. Three ponderous quartos are required to give the titles of the twenty-five thousand volumes and fifteen thousand pamphlets which it contains. All this mass of medical literature is inaccessible to the profession. It is hermetically sealed to student or writer who may wish to make exhaustive research on any special subject, and this is true of every medical library in the land. It is practically impossible for those who need such aids to go in person to those great repositories of scientific lore and spend the requisite time to consult works of reference, and hence these splendid treasures of knowledge are sealed books—mausoleums—stately bibliographic tombs.

The medical department of the State library, which I have now

proposed, should be managed after the general plan long since adopted for the scientific library of the Smithsonian Institute, the policy and practice being to aid those who are engaged in special researches by loaning such works as are not otherwise readily accessible to individuals, the character of the persons, and the payment of expressage to and fro, being the chief conditions for obtaining such assistance.

I do not wish to discourage the formation of local and private libraries. Let them multiply in number and increase in magnitude. They will all be needed and made use of. We want one, however, vast in extent, rich in contents, and as nearly exhaustive as possible, for the actual and practical use of all who wish to drink deeply from the fountain heads of medical literature.

To return to our publications. I find that the "Transactions" embrace 708 distinct articles, occupying an aggregate of 9,500 octavo pages. I have carefully copied the title of each paper and the author's name, omitting in all cases the caudal appendages or descriptive lists which are frequently stunning and of prodigious length, embracing a catalogue of all the abbreviated degrees and unabridged appointments and memberships which have been conferred up to date, with two or more etc., etc., &c., &c., implying that the list was by no means exhausted, but could be extended *ad infinitum*; so to save space I have used the simple prefix "Dr." to all the writers' names. The 708 articles are arranged under twelve general divisions: 89 medical papers; 151 surgical papers; 56 on obstetrics and diseases peculiar to women; 35 on mental and nervous diseases; 27 medical jurisprudence, toxicology, &c.; 93 medical topography, epidemics, vital statistics and hygiene; 21 medical and surgical statistics; 50 *materia medica*, pharmaeay and therapeutics; 18 physiology and teratology; 52 medical education, ethics and laws; 8 quackery; 108 medical history, biography and progress.

I have also prepared, with a view to publication in, and as a part of this address, a chronological table exhibiting a very brief epitome of the most notable acts of each meeting from 1807 to 1874, embracing the names of the officers of the chair, the titles of their addresses, the attendance, prizes offered and accepted, important action of the Society on questions of interest, &c.

Art is long and life is short. I have a constitutional dislike to long sermons, yet, where only one is delivered in a twelvemonth, perhaps it is allowable to be somewhat prolix. Time forbids me, however, to more than glance at several subjects which I had

expected to discuss more fully. I had hoped to consider some of the evils which beset our profession and retard progress, together with the best means of correcting them. I desire to speak of the too prevalent and I fear increasing practice of employing the delicate and elegant "elixirs," which are now manufactured in vast quantities by many large and reputable drug houses in most great cities, put up in beautiful bottles, and introduced by polite and active agents who call upon every physician in the land. I will dismiss the subject with the simple intimation that a grave responsibility rests on all who encourage the general use of slightly medicated diffusible stimulants, the insidious and pernicious effects of which may create a morbid and insatiable appetite that will only end in untold misery if not ruin of estate, body, and soul. I also wished to speak of the present tendency to over-refinement and minute subdivision of medical and surgical practice. I did not propose to wage wholesale and merciless war against the specialists, but simply ask the profession to notice the extent to which this tendency has already gone and its evident, and I might almost add its alarming, increase. These numerous specialists remind one of the anatomico-astrological figure on the second page of all old-time and even some modern almanacs, with the signs of the zodiac surrounding the body of the man whose entrails and organs are freely exposed, each controlling sign pointing to the part over which it presides: so in like manner a diagram could be made, with not merely a dozen zodiacal symbols, but as many as there are distinct organs of the body, each with special groups or droves of pathological and therapeutical goats, rams, bulls, lions, scorpions, &c., bucking, roaring and stinging, to gain possession of their favorite morsel of the poor human organism, every portion of which, though well-known to be dependent upon almost every other, is appropriated by the one-organ men of the present day.

Probably most of you have read the experience of Dr. Robert Barnes, who says, in the *London Lancet*: "I have recently been honoured by a visit from a lady of typical modern intelligence, who consulted me about a fibroid tumor of the uterus; and lest I should stray beyond my business, she was careful to tell me that Dr. Brown-Séquard had charge of her nervous system, that Dr. Williams attended to her lungs, that her abdominal organs were intrusted to Sir William Gull, that Mr. Spencer Wells looked after her rectum, and that Dr. Walshe had her heart. If some adventurous doctor should determine to start a new specialty, and open an institution

for the treatment of diseases of the umbilicus—the only region which, as my colleague, Mr. Simon, says, is unappropriated—I think I can promise him more than one patient."

As a result of all this we see numerous societies and journals devoted exclusively to a single tissue, organ, class of disease, or special mode of treatment. High and mighty sounding titles, indeed, are the journals of "Neurology and Electrology," of "Otology and Ophthalmology," of "Dermatology and Syphilitography," "Gynecology," &c., and exceedingly convenient and taking are the skin and bone, brain and nerve, throat and lung, heart and kidney, rupture and tumor dispensaries, which abound in every city.

I am aware of the fact that most of the distinguished specialists of our great cities were general practitioners and thoroughly posted in every department of medicine and surgery before they devoted themselves to a specialty; and that it was not original choice but peculiar circumstances that guided them in the particular line wherein they subsequently became more or less eminent and celebrated. This is true of the great ovariotomists, lithotomists, and many oculists, and a few other specialists. What I am anxious to check is the present tendency to increase the number of this already too numerous class of practitioners, and protest against the encouragement of young men to study with reference to practice in a field limited to one organ or a single class of diseases.

I do not wish to be understood that *special studies and researches* should be discouraged; on the contrary, let every man select a subject and make a hobby of it, as far as it is possible for him to do so, for by this means the greatest contributions have been made to medical science; but never forget that the human body is a harmonious unit, that exclusive *practice* prejudices the mind and narrows the judgment of the physician, that the tendency is to belittle the general practitioner in the public mind, and that the extravagant fees demanded by specialists for treatment or counsel, though a minor, is yet an important consideration to all except the opulent.

Another subject which I had hoped to speak of is the present condition and status of Homœopathy, the most stupendous fraud of the present age; the greatest delusion and the most subtle snare, with its system of specifics and potencies, its infinitesimal pharmacy and therapeutical jugglery: it must, nevertheless, be admitted that it has spread and grown, as truth never spreads; and nominally it may now be on the increase, for it addresses itself to the

weak side of humanity. It styles itself the "new system," as opposed to the "old and defunct." It claims to have discovered the law of cure in the doctrine that "like cures like;" that what will cause a disease, the same in kind will cure it. It declares that disease is an entity and a unit, and the so-called special diseases are but modifications of the original unit; that medicines increase in power in proportion to the minuteness of the quantity employed to an infinitesimal and infinite degree. This is a complete epitome of the whole system, neither more nor less, and he who fails to *believe* and to *practice* in strict accordance with these doctrines—prescriber or patient—is not a homeopath. I candidly believe that there is scarcely a genuine homeopath in all the land. The host of practitioners and the multitudes of adherents to this popular delusion do not sincerely believe in its cardinal doctrines, neither do they practice according to the precepts of its founder. Could Hahnemann arise from his grave he would ignore the homeopathy of the present time. Years ago they all used high dilutions and infinite attenuations, and would not permit a particle of any medicine, spice or perfume, not even a breath of cologne, to be in the room of the patient, in fear of its antidotal properties upon their refined and sublimated *materia medica*. Behold, how changed! Now the practitioners of this *art* do not hesitate to use every article employed by regular or, as they style us, allopathic physicians, and that too in tangible and generally in good orthodox ample doses.

Would not general and open consultations with homeopaths expose the emptiness and false position of their so-called system, as Sherman's grand march to the sea exposed the weakness and utter exhaustion of vital resources in the Southern Confederacy? It is my opinion that the banner of homeopathy is all that remains on the high and mighty air castles of "the immortal Hahnemann."

I will not tax your patience and powers of endurance any farther, but will close with the hope that no man will arise in this assembly, when I shall have finished speaking, and offer a complimentary resolution in accordance with a time-honored custom, thanking "the president for his able and eloquent address;" but if any be offered, let it be "thanks to the president for having ended his rather lengthy, matter-of-fact, and, to some extent, suggestive and useful discourse." We will now adjourn to the Governor's Mansion, to enjoy the entertainment of the evening.

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TABLE OF PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS, SUBJECTS OF PRESIDENTS' ADDRESSES, &c., OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. of Meetings,	Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	No. of Representatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session.
1	1807	*William McClelland Died 1811. *Alexander Sheldon	Albany Montgomery	12	No address published or mentioned in the report of meeting.	The Society duly organized Feb. 1, 1807. Directed each county medical society to present a geological and topographical report and history of prevailing diseases, to State society. Each member to give an account of any remarkable case, with treatment, which should occur in his practice. Ten counties represented.
2	1808	*William McClelland *Alexander Sheldon	Albany Montgomery	17	No address reported to have been delivered.	A system of by-laws adopted. Three prize medals offered, viz.: One of fifty dollars' value for best report on topography, geology, mineralogy, and diseases of any county in the State; one of twenty-five dollars for second best report on the same subjects, and one of twenty-five dollars for best essay on causes, prevention, and cure of "typhus mitor, or low, nervous fever, which prevails in different counties of the State." Reports on geology, topography, and diseases of the following counties were presented: Montgomery, by Dr. Alex. Sheldon; Orange, by Dr. David R. Arnell; Dutchess, by Dr. Wm. Wheeler; Saratoga, by Dr. John Stearns; Jefferson, by Dr. Hugh Henderson; Clinton, by Dr. H. Powell; Westchester, by Dr. Lyman Cook. It was "ordained" that all the presidents of county medical societies, and members of the Legislature who are members of any county medical society in this State, shall be <i>ex officio</i> honorary members of this Society. Seventeen counties represented.
3	1809	*Nicholas Romayne Died July 20, 1817. at 61. *Alexander Sheldon	New York Montgomery	16	The medical profession the necessity for original research, and the relation of the profession to general science and the arts. The address was delivered in the Assembly Chamber of the Capitol.	Three prize essays were presented, two on typhus mitor, and one on topography, geology, &c. Application was made to the Legislature for "aid to promote the science and practice of medicine in this State." A committee was appointed to petition the Legislature for a law "to prohibit inoculation of small-pox in this State." The Society being informed of the death of Dr. Hugh Henderson, it was "Resolved, To wear the customary mourning for a month, as testimony of respect to his memory." Sixteen counties represented.
4	1810	*Nicholas Romayne *Alexander Sheldon	New York Montgomery	18	The medical profession, its duty to promote medical inquiry, and to sustain its usefulness and dignity. The president asks a careful investigation into the nature, cause, prevention and cure of "spotted fever," which had, within a few months, appeared in Orange county. Asks the Society to offer a prize medal for the best essay on the disease.	The Society recommended the Legislature to purchase Dr. David Hosack's Botanic Garden, to be managed under its direction in a manner best calculated for the promotion and diffusion of medical science. This action of the Society was in union with the N. Y. Co. Med. Society, the Corporation of the City of New York, and the Governors of the New York Hospital. It was subsequently purchased for \$73,000 and ceded to Columbia College. The property in 1835 was valued at over \$100,000. It contained twenty acres. A committee appointed to petition the Legislature to release medical men from military duty. It was "Resolved, That each county medical society do appoint two or more discreet lecturers, whose duty it shall be to give such instruction to medical students as the encouragement they may receive will justify." Reports on medical topography, &c., of the counties of Orange and Ontario, were received. The State society sent communications to county societies to stimulate them to efficient labor for medical improvement. Eighteen counties represented.
5	1811	*Nicholas Romayne *Alexander Sheldon [The president being absent, Dr. Wm. McClellan was elected <i>pro tempore</i> .]	New York Montgomery	16	The past and present condition of the medical profession of the State of New York. Very good.	The prize medal for the best essay on medical topography, &c., was given to Dr. John Stearns, of Saratoga, N. Y. The Legislature was petitioned for a permanent fund to defray the contingent expenses of the Society, &c. Dr. Moses Willard read an essay on <i>Typhus Mitor</i> . The by-laws were revised. Resolved, That the subject of debate for next annual meeting be, "Whether America is subject to any diseases not prevalent in foreign countries, and what they are." Fifteen counties represented.

## TABLE OF PRESIDENTS, &amp;c.—Continued.

No. of M <sup>tgs.</sup>	Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	No. of Representatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session.
6	1812	*William Wilson ..... Died 1829. *Westel Willoughby ..... Died October 3, 1844, aet. 75.	Columbia ..... Herkimer.....	13	Dr. Wilson was absent. His address was furnished. It is a brief review of the progress of medical science; he says, "the most valuable discovery of the use of gold in medicine" deserved special attention	<i>Resolved</i> , That the members wear crape on the left arm for thirty days, in testimony of respect for the memory of Dr. William McClellan, the first president of the Society. The total amount of money received by the treasurer was \$33. Four hundred copies of the "Transactions" ordered to be printed. Thirteen counties represented.
7	1813	John R. B. Rodgers.... Died 1833, aet. 76. *Westel Willoughby .....	New York .....	12	The prevalent diseases of this State, "influenza in winter and spring, scarlatina in the spring, malignant fever in the last of summer and early autumn, and the disease called 'spotted fever' in the winter and spring." Also, on new remedies and medical botany.	Dr. Amos Hamlin read a report on medical topography of Greene county. Drs. Willoughby and Stearns presented communications "on the prevailing epidemic." Dr. Sizer's paper on "the late earthquake in the county of Madison and its vicinity," was read by the president. The expense of printing the "Transactions" for the past year was twenty dollars. One hundred copies of "Transactions of the present year ordered to be published. The only medical journals in the State are the <i>Medical Repository</i> and the <i>Medical and Philosophical Register</i> . Dr. Willoughby read a brief essay on "spotted fever," or, as he preferred to call it, <i>Peripneumonia innominata</i> . Twelve counties represented.
8	1814	John R. B. Rodgers.... *Joseph White..... Died June 2, 1832. aet. 70.	New York... Otsego.....	22	The prevalent diseases of the past year, and a eulogy on Dr. Benjamin Rush, who died June, 1813. He says, "By the favor and blessing of Heaven, we have not had malignant fever in any of our large cities during the last summer and autumn, except New Orleans."	Dr. Henry Mitchell presented a report on medical topography of the county of Chenango. A prize medal of \$25 value, offered for "the best meteorological table, together with an account of the diseases of the district during the term of one year," by any physician of any county medical society. Dr. Ricketson read a dissertation on fever. Dr. Low read a paper on hydatids, and on tetanus cured by soda.
9	1815	John R. B. Rodgers.... *Joseph White..... Died June 2, 1832. aet. 70.	New York... Otsego.....	16	On puerperal and other diseases of females. Dr. Rodgers declined re-election	Dr. Noah Niles presented a report on medical topography of Steuben county. Dr. Daniel Hudson of Geneva, presented a communication on the prevailing epidemic of 1812-13, which was read by Dr. Low. A circular letter was addressed to the county medical societies to stimulate original investigation, and to collect facts and observations to be reported to this Society. A volume of essays proposed to be published by the Society.
10	1816	*Joseph White..... Eli Burrett.....	Otsego ..... Rensselaer .....	16	On medical education, against visionary theories, and on artificial joints from ununited fractures, and their treatment.	Committee to revise the statute "regulating the practice of physic and surgery," reported a higher standard for medical students, protection against empirics, and a prize medal, value \$25, for best essay on meteorology, by a member of this or any county medical society. Two days session.
11	1817	*Joseph White..... Eli Burrett.....	Otsego ..... Rensselaer .....	17	On white swellings of the joints. Dr. White declined re-election.	<i>Resolved</i> , That the State Medical Society approves of the formation of an American pharmacopœia, by a convention of delegates from the several State medical societies." Three days session.
12	1818	*John Stearns..... Died 1848, aet. 75. *Henry Mitchell..... Died Jan. 12, 1856, aet. 72.	Albany .....	21	A tribute of respect to the memory of Dr. Nicholas Romayne; remarks on the qualifications of medical men, the prevention of consumption, &c.	Dr. J. H. Steele, of Saratoga, presented "an analysis of the Ballston and Saratoga waters, &c." Report on national pharmacopœia, in favor of one, its importance, and calling for a convention to meet in Washington, January 1, 1820, to be composed of delegates from district conventions in the manner set forth in an elaborate report; also provision for decennial revision of the U. S. P., &c. Delegates were appointed by the Society. Dr. Hull's truss, report on, "that it is far superior to any other now in use." Two days session.
13	1819	*John Stearns ..... *Henry Mitchell .....	Albany..... Chenango .....	22	On geology and its relations to medical science. On electricity as a cause of disease and a means of cure. Military surgery, resection of ribs, opening of plura, &c.	Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell reported that the requisite number of medical societies and colleges had been favorably heard from to call the convention for the formation of a National Pharmacopœia. Dr. Trowbridge reported a successful cure of bronchotomy for removal of a bean from the trachea. This is the first successful case reported in this country. Dr. T. also reported a successful operation for the removal of an immense polypus from the antrum of hiomare, and the nostrils and throat. Three days session.
14	1820	*John Stearns..... *Westel Willoughby .....	Albany..... Herkimer.....	28	The influence of the mind over the body in the production and cure of disease.	The Society ordered the publication of a list of the honorary and permanent members in the "Transactions." Communications received on American pharmacopœia, relative to qualifications necessary for medical students, &c. Three medical periodicals published in this State, viz.: "The Medical Repository," "Transactions of the Physico-Medical Society," and "The Register of Medical and Surgical Cases of Hospital Practice."

## TABLE OF PRESIDENTS, &amp;c.—Continued.

No. of M <sup>th</sup> s Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice- Presidents.	No. of Repre- sentatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session.
15 1821	*John Stearns----- *Westel Willoughby-- [Both being absent, the Society elected Peter C. Adams, presi- dent, <i>pro tem.</i> ] Greene-----	New York--- Herkimer---		21 On the functions and diseases of the liver. Dr. Stearns was absent for the first time in thirteen years. His ad- dress was read by Dr. James R. Manley, of New York City.	The Society petitioned the Legislature for \$300 "in order to defray the expenses of members from distant counties while attending the annual meeting of the State Society." Committee appointed "to collect and form a system of medical ethics." Also a com- mittee to revise the by-laws. The Society ordered five hundred copies of the laws, and all the revisions of the same, regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this State, to be printed.
16 1822	*Samuel L. Mitchell-- New York--- Died Sept. 7, 1831, aet. 67. Peter C. Adams----- Greene -----			29 The president being absent the vice-president occupied the chair. The "Transactions" state that "the hour for the reading of the president's address having arrived, his communication was read accordingly." The title is not given, and no address was published.	<i>Resolved</i> , That the thanks of the Society be presented to the president for his communication and the documents accompa- nying the same." It does not appear what the character of these were. The Society petition the Legislature to give the county societies "power to fine delinquent members for violation of regulations, &c." The Society advertises for a copy of "Trans- actions" for each of the years 1807, 1808, 1809, 1811, 1816, for its own use.
17 1823	*Samuel L. Mitchell-- New York--- Thomas Fuller----- Otsego----- [The president and vice-president both be- absent, the Society elected *James R. Man- ley, president, <i>pro tem.</i> ] New York---			21 No address was presented. The penalty of \$25, incurred by the president for neg- lecting to comply with the by-law requiring him to prepare, deliver and trans- mit a dissertation on some appropriate subject, was re- mitted.	An essay on yellow fever, by Dr. Christopher C. Yates, was read. A system of medical ethics were reported and adopted; one thousand copies of the code was ordered to be printed. A report in favor of American drugs was passed. It was resolved that four full years of study must be required for medical students. The Society held three days session.
18 1824	*Alexander Coventry-- Oneida ----- Died Dec. 9, 1831, aet. 65. *John H. Steel----- Saratoga -----			27 On endemic fever. Dr. Coven- try's personal observations of malarious fevers in Cen- tral New York. A splendid address.	Reports from many county societies of the adoption of the State code of ethics. The Society offered \$50 for the best essay on either or both of the following questions, viz.: 1. The history, causes and treatment of whooping cough. 2. The remote and exciting causes of phthisis. Four days session.
19 1825	*Alexander Coventry-- Oneida ----- *John H. Steel----- Saratoga ----- [Both being absent, the Society elected *James R. Manley, president, <i>pro tem.</i> ] New York---			25 On the present state of the profession, on patent medi- cines, but chiefly on endem- ic fever, its symptoms and treatment.	A system of rules and regulations to govern this Society in its deliberations" was adopted. Prize questions for 1826: 1. The history, causes and treatment of whooping cough. 2 On the American goitre, showing in what sections of the United States it prevails, and by what atmospheric or topographical influence that affection of the thyroid gland is aggravated, and the best means of relief or cure. Dr. Jonathan Eights was appointed librarian. Ordered republication of the by-laws as revised and adopted February 3, 1825. Three days session.
20 1826	*James R. Manley---- New York-- Died Nov. 21, 1851, aet. 69. *T. Romeyn Beck---- Albany----- Died Nov. 19, 1855, aet. 64.			25 Medical responsibility, medical education, etc.	Dr. Andrew Hammersley, of New York City, was awarded the prize for the best essay "on the remote and exciting causes of consumption" The formation of the Academy of Medicine in the City of New York was announced. The regents of the University were petitioned to grant the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine to such persons as may be recommended by this Society. It is stated that in 1796 there were but five medical schools in the U. S., with two hundred pupils, while now (1826) there are seventeen medical schools with two thousand pupils. Thirty years ago there were, probably, not to exceed twenty gentlemen in this State who held the degree of M. D. Three days session.
21 1827	*James R. Manley---- New York-- *T. Romeyn Beck---- Albany-----			25 The present state of the pro- fession, "the various abuses which now exist in the practice of physic," also "a succinct history of medicine in this State."	The president being absent, Dr. T. R. Beck presided. The prize was awarded to Dr. Peixotto, of New York, for the best essay on whooping cough. No dissertation offered for the prizes of 1827. Prize questions for 1828: 1st, Goitre (as in 1827) 2nd, "History, causes and cure of scrofula, with particular reference to its prevalence and prevention in this State." Most of the time of the Society was occupied in matters relating to medical education, qualifications, degrees, etc.

## TABLE OF PRESIDENTS, &amp;c.—Continued.

No. of Presidents	Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	No. of Representatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session.
22	1828	*T. Romeyn Beck *Laurens Hull Died June 27, 1865, aet. 86.	Albany Oneida	32	Medical evidence in courts of justice. The Legislature was invited to be present at the delivery of the address in the Assembly Chamber.	The president reported that the regents of the University had conferred the honorary degree of M. D. on six medical gentlemen. The Society nominated six others. The name of Dr. Benj. Waterhouse was striken from the roll of honorary members for supporting and sanctioning the empirical practice of Samuel Thompson. A prize of \$100 was offered by the Society for the best essay on "the history, causes and treatment of typhus fever," being the sole prize for 1829. No essays were presented for the prizes of 1828. Resolutions passed against intemperance. The Society "recommend the calling a national convention, consisting of a delegate from each of the regular medical colleges and State medical societies, to meet at Philadelphia on the first Tuesday of May next" to adopt "a more uniform system of medical education," and a plan "to elevate the medical profession and benefit mankind." Dr. T. R. Beck was appointed delegate to said convention.
23	1829	*T. Romeyn Beek *Laurens Hull	Albany Oneida	32	Progress in medicine—by dis	The Society passed resolutions to solicit the Legislature to establish a "State Vaccine Institution"; a "Board of Examiners in Chemistry and Pharmacy," to license apothecaries; to oppose any change of the medical laws to favor "steam doctors"; against intemperance. Four essays for prize on typhus fever were received, but not decided upon. Prize questions for 1830: 1. "History, preparation and medical use of iodine." 2. "The nature, symptoms, causes, and treatment of delirium tremens, illustrated by cases." (\$50 each.)
24	1830	*T. Romeyn Beck *Henry Mitchell	Albany Chenango	35	The small-pox, its history and possibly its extinction.	The prize for 1829, on typhus fever, was awarded to Dr. A. T. Magill, of Winehester, Va. Prize for 1830, on iodine, to Dr. S. J. Hobson, of Philadelphia. Prize questions for 1831: 1. "On delirium tremens." 2. "The causes of the large proportion of still-born children in our large cities over those of London, with statistical tables." An elaborate report was made to the Society "on the best means of making a medical topographical survey of the State of N. Y."
25	1831	*Jonathan Eights Died Aug. 10, 1848. aet. 75.	Albany	34	"Vaccina, cow, or kine-pox." Prize questions: 1. "The influence of varieties of temperature in the production of disease." 2. On still-born children (continued.)	
26	1832	*Henry Mitchell *Jonathan Eights *Thomas Spencer	Chenango Albany Madison	26 and *7	Puerperal fever, 125 printed pages, 8vo. Seven medical members of the Legislature were invited to attend the session of the Society.	3. "On the principal indigenous cathartics of the United States." (\$50 each for best essay.) To Dr. Jas. Conquest Cross, of Ky., was awarded prize for best essay on delirium tremens, pp. 147, 8vo. The Society made provisions for publishing its "Transactions" in permanent form, the copyright of Vol. I to be sold for the Society. A State vaccine institution established in the City of New York. Prize questions: 1. On temperature and its relations to disease. 2. On still births, etc.
27	1833	*Thomas Spencer Died May 30, 1857. aet. 65.	Madison	30 and 6*	Asiatic cholera. Six medical members of the Legislature invited to seats.	Prize questions: 1. The medical history of cholera morbus, previous to the appearance of the Asiatic cholera. 2. The influence of malaria, or marsh effluvia, in the production of disease. Only one hundred copies of Vol. I of the "Transactions" printed.
28	1834	*Thomas Spence *James McNaughton	Madison Albany	36 and 12*	Dysentery. Twelve medical members of the Legislature invited to seats.	The Society petitions the Legislature to erect an institution for the insane and idiot poor, of which it is estimated that there are three thousand in the State, with provision at present for only 250. Prize question: The indigenous vegetable cathartics of the United States.
29	1835	*John H. Steele *James McNaughton	Saratoga Albany	30 and 11*	No address prepared on account of the president's ill health.	A committee to investigate failures in protective power of vaccination. Prize question: The influence of trades, professions and occupations in the U. S. in the production of disease. Only one hundred copies of Vol. II of "Transactions" printed.
30	1836	*John H. Steele *James McNaughton	Saratoga Albany	40 and 8*	On the derangement of the digestive organs.	The death of Dr. David Hosack was announced. The Society again petition the Legislature to establish an asylum for the insane and idiots of the State.
31	1837	*James McNaughton Died June 11, 1874 aet. 78.	Albany	42	On the Progress of medicine in the State of New York.	Attendance, 12 permanent members, 20 delegates, 5 invited, 1 honorary.—12. Dr. Benj. W. M'Cready received the prize for best essay on the influence of trades, etc., on health. Essay published in Vol. III of "Transactions," pp. 60. Essays on still births by Dr. Avery, on typhus fever by Dr. J. S. Fountain, on lunatic asylums, on statistics of deaf and dumb, etc., read and published. Only one hundred copies of "Transactions," Vol. III, printed.
32	1838	*James McNaughton *Samuel White	Albany Columbia	36 and 5*	On the homeopathic system of medicine.	Boards of Health recommended for protection of the community against small-pox.

## TABLE OF PRESIDENTS, &amp;c.—Continued.

No. of M <sup>r</sup> gs.	Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	No. of Representatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session.
33	1839	*Laurens Hull Died June 27, 1865, at 86. *Sumner Ely Died Feb. 3, 1857, at 70.	Oneida	38	On quackery.	Prize question for 1840: The diseases of the spinal column, their causes, diagnosis, history and treatment; \$100 offered for best essay. Dr. T. R. Beck communicated statistics of the medical colleges in the Union. The Society passed a resolution, offered by Dr. McCall, to call a "National Medical Convention" to meet in Philadelphia the first Tuesday in May, 1840. 500 copies of "Transactions" printed.
34	1840	*Laurens Hull Died June 27, 1865, at 86. *Sumner Ely	Oneida Otsego	37 and 8*	Improvements in medicine which have illustrated the last half century.	Dr. N. S. Davis received the prize for an essay on "Diseases of the Spinal Column." Prize questions for 1841: "1. The Medical Literature of Cholera Morbus, previous to the appearance of the epidemic cholera." "2. An Analysis of the discoveries concerning the physiology of the Nervous System, from the publications of Sir Charles Bell to the present time, both inclusive." Five hundred copies of Vol. IV. were printed.
35	1841	*Sumner Ely Died Feb. 3, 1857, at 70.	Otsego	39 and 4*	Inflammatory fever.	Dr. N. S. Davis received the prize for essay on "Discoveries in the Physiology of the Nervous System, etc."
36	1842	*John B. Beck John B. Beck Died April 9, 1851, at 51. *William Taylor	New York New York Onondaga	37 and 7*	The history of American medicine before the revolution. The president being absent, his address was read by his brother, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck.	It is stated that there are about four thousand physicians now in the State. Sixty counties in the State, in this Society about one-third represented; average attendance for four years past, thirty-four. The Chenango County Medical Society sent the following to the State Medical Society: <i>Resolved</i> . To elect four instead of two permanent members; and that in place of one delegate from each county society, that each shall be entitled to as many delegates as the county is entitled to representatives in the Assembly; also, to allow the Society to change the time and place of meeting. June was suggested. Which suggestions were considered by the Society, but not adopted. The Legislature was petitioned for a law for the uniform registration of deaths in the State. Three hundred copies of Vol. V. of "Transactions" published.
37	1843	*William Taylor Died Sept. 16, 1865, at 74. *Joel A. Wing	Onondaga Albany	41 and 7*	Typhoid fever	Proposal for an anatomical bill, the Legislature to be petitioned to legalize dissection and provide subjects from unclaimed bodies of those who die in jails, alms-houses, etc.
38	1844	*Samuel White Died 1845, at 68. *Joel A. Wing	Columbia Albany	45 and 5*	Insanity.	It was considered inexpedient to petition the Legislature to increase the facilities for the study of anatomy. The time of the Society largely taken up, as in former sessions, by the discussion in relation to modifications of laws relating to the profession, to suppress quackery, etc.
39	1845	*Joel A. Wing Died Sept. 6, 1852, at 64. Harmar Van Dusen	Albany Onondaga	46 and 15*	Spinal irritation. The introductory address, being the first noticed in any of the published "Transactions," was "On the present period of agitation and revolution of medicine in the State."	A large number of resolutions from various county medical Societies relative to the recent laws of the State putting all classes of doctors on an equality, and holding them equally responsible. Dr. N. S. Davis presented resolutions, which were adopted, recommending a national medical convention, to meet at New York the first Tuesday in May, 1846. The president required to set forth the state of the profession at the opening of the annual meeting.
40	1846	*James Webster Died July 18, 1854, at 51. *Robert G. Frary	Monroe Columbia	42 and 9*	No address. The president was absent in consequence of severe illness.	The committee on national medical convention report satisfactory progress, having had favorable responses from most of the States and colleges. Three hundred copies of "Transactions," Vol. VI. published.
41	1847	*John McCall Died Oct. 6, 1867, at 80. Stephen Hasbrouck	Oneida New York	33 and 12*	Mental manifestation in health and disease.	Dr. Jas. McNaughton invited the Society to a supper at his house. This is the first invitation or general supper mentioned in the "Transactions." At the suggestion of the president, a committee on "Hygiene and Medical Statistics," one on "Medical Education, Ethics, Forensic Medicines, and Agriculture in its Relations to Medicine," and one on "Asylums, Hospitals, Dispensaries, etc," for the "Insane, Idiotic, Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Sick," were appointed. Discussions on "Diseases of the Nervous System, etc."
42	1848	*Thos. W. Blatchford Died Jan. 7, 1866 at 71. *Alexander Thompson	Rensselaer Cayuga	34 and 4*	History of the Temperaments.	In his inaugural address, the president refers to the American Medical Association, and asks the adoption of its code by this Society. He proposed a nominating committee to save time of the Society. Advises the increase of voluntary medical associations. Committee on patent medicines, their composition and sale, and best means of restricting their use. The Society to employ a reporter for its proceedings. Many cases were related and discussed.

## TABLE OF PRESIDENTS, &amp;c.—Continued.

No. of Mtgs.	Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	No. of Representatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session.
43	1849	*Alex. H. Stephens... Died March 30, 1869, at 80. *Alex. Thompson....	New York... Cayuga.....	56 and 9*	A Plea of Humanity in behalf of Medical Education. 2500 copies of the address were ordered to be printed.	The Inaugural Address is very short, and merely refers to the success of the American Medical Association. Dr. Ray exhibited a calculus, weight four ounces, which ulcerated through the coats of the bladder into the vagina; rapid spontaneous recovery. Resolved, "That all articles put up for medical use and offered for sale, should be labelled in English, with their composition, etc." Dr. Stephens moved "to recommend Gen. Zachary Taylor for the honorary degree of M. D. to the Regents of the University." The subject of vaccination discussed. Four hundred copies of "Transactions," Vol. VII, were published.
44	1850	*Alex. H. Stephens... *Alex. Thompson... Died Sept. 18, 1869, at 63.	New York... Cayuga.....	54 and 6*	The Public Health.	Prize offered for the best essay "On the pernicious influences of nostrums and secret remedies, on the health and morals of the community." The subject of the "Identity of Typhus and Typhoid Fever" was fully discussed by Drs. Clark, Flint, and many others. The "Transactions" (pp. 280) were printed by the State, and became a Legislative document.
45	1851	*Alex. Thompson.... Jenks S. Sprague.....	Cayuga..... Otsego.....	65	A brief inquiry into some of the causes which retard progress in medicine.	The president proposes a semi-annual meeting of the Society, and that an address on medicine shall be delivered by the vice-president. A committee to report on Diphtheritic Croup. The Society resolved to hold a semi-annual meeting at Buffalo on the second Tuesday of June next. Seven essays were offered for the prize on "Nostrums, etc." The prize was given to John G. Sewall, M. D., of New York.
46	1852	*Robert G. Frary..... Died Dec. 29, 1862, at 69. Jenks S. Sprague.....	Columbia..... Otsego.....	57	No address. The president was absent.	Dr. Reid's essay on "Reduction of Dislocation of the Hip joint by Manipulation" was referred to the publishing committee. The next semi-annual meeting to be in New York City the last Tuesday in June next. No reference in the "Transaction" to the semi-annual meeting held in Buffalo.
47	1853	Alonzo Clark..... Jenks S. Sprague.....	New York... Otsego.....	80	The Claims of the Medical Profession.	The proceedings of the semi-annual meeting in New York are published in the "Transactions." Sixty-seven, including those invited to take seats, were present. The president delivered an address, and many papers were read. At the annual meeting the effort made to increase the number of delegates resulted in the election of two permanent members from each senatorial district.
48	1854	Jenks S. Sprague..... *Peter Van Buren.... Died Dec. 5, 1873, at 71.	Otsego..... Albany.....	88	Medical Education, and the claims of the science we cultivate, to the countenance and encouragement of all who value life and health.	The following subjects were selected for reports at the next meeting: 1. "Rest and the Abolition of Pain in the Treatment of Disease." 2. "Internal Caueer." 3. "Treatment of Tuberculosis." 4. "Deformity after Fracture." 5. "Treatment of Pneumonia." 6. "Ergot versus the Forceps." 7. "Non-contagious Eruptive Diseases of Children." 8. "Types of Fever." 9. "Croup." 10. "Epidemics."
49	1855	Chas. Broadhead Cov- entry..... *Peter Van Buren....	Oneida..... Albany.....	92	The philosophy of medicine as a science and an art.	Gov. Myron H. Clark invited the Society to visit him at the Executive Chamber. A petition to the Legislature to compel parents and guardians to have their children vaccinated before they are one year old, and expel all unprotected children from the public schools. Dr. F. H. Hamilton's report on "Dislocations and their Results," and various other valuable papers, were read.
50	1856	Frank Hastings Ham- ilton..... Thomas Hun.....	Erie..... Albany.....	56	Eulogium upon the life and character of Theodoric Romeyn Beck, M. D., LL D.	The Legislature petitioned to furnish additional accommodation for the insane. A committee of nomination to be hereafter appointed by the president, consisting of one member from each senatorial district. A committee appointed to arrange for the semi-centennial meeting. Members of the American Medical Association to be invited.
51	1857	*Alden March..... Died June 17, 1869, at 73. Charles S. Goodrich....	Albany..... Kings.....	106	A review of the improvements in medicine and surgery, and the progress of the arts and sciences during the past fifty years.	Attendance: 40 permanent members, 38 delegates, 28 invited to seats—106. "Resolved, That the vice-president be required hereafter to deliver an address at some period of the annual session to this Society." The Legislature petitioned to pass a law for the remuneration of medical witnesses in criminal cases. Resolution in favor of the passage of a prohibitory liquor law. Resolution commending the project for an asylum for neobriates, also commanding the bill for "Sanitary Police for the City of New York." A prize of fifty dollars offered for best essay on scarlet fever. Resolution commanding the founding of "The Woman's Hospital of the State of New York." The semi-centennial celebration and supper took place at the Delevan House a very pleasant occasion.

## TABLE OF PRESIDENTS, &amp;c.—Continued.

No. of Mtgs.	Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	No. of Representatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session.
52	1858	*Augustus Willard Died March 12, 1868, at. 69.  *Thomas C. Brinsmade	Chenango ---	108	Air, exercise and sunlight.	Attendance: 36 permanent members, 41 delegates, 31 invited to seats—108. An effort to organize medical societies in counties where none exist. The vice-president delivered an address on (private) "Medical Statistics," which made three hundred pages of the printed "Transactions." This was the first and <i>last</i> address by a vice-president. The State not only printed but bound the "Transactions"—8vo, 665 pages; several fine engravings.
53	1859	*Thomas C. Brinsmade Died June 22, 1868, at. 66.  George W. Bradford	Rensselaer --- Cortland ---	128	The value of association and united effort for the advancement of science and the honor of the medical profession.	Attendance: 46 permanent members, 48 delegates, 34 invited to seats—128. Resolved to dispense with the annual supper. To increase the annual number of honorary members from two to six. Dr. H. A. Carrington, of Hyde Park, New York, received the prize for best essay on scarlet fever. Numerous and valuable papers were read and published in the "Transactions," pp. 454; also re-publication of an abstract of "Transactions" from 1807-1831.
54	1860	B. Fordyce Barker *Daniel T. Jones	New York --- Onondaga ---	144	No annual address prepared on account of the condition of the president's voice.	Attendance: 54 permanent members, 57 delegates, 33 invited to seats—144. The Legislature petitioned to pass a law for the appointment of a State commission of lunacy. Report on the priority of the discovery of anaesthesia, assigning it to Dr. Wells (Trans., p. 187-195). A committee to consider the importance of a topographical and hydrographical survey of the State, with reference to systematic drainage as a hygienic measure, suggested by the president in his inaugural address. "Transactions" for 1860, 8vo, pp. 280.
55	1861	*Daniel T. Jones Died March 29, 1861, at 60.  Edward H. Parker	Onondaga --- Dutchess ---	125	General considerations on improvements in Medical Practice, etc.	Attendance: 47 permanent members, 52 delegates, 26 invited to seats—125. An extended discussion on Inversion of the Uterus; also on treatment of fractures of the long bones by simple extension. The medical books of the Society put in a case in the Albany Medical College. Resolved, To petition the Legislature to pass a law to prevent the sale of opiates to persons laboring under the opium habit. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 408.
56	1862	Edward H. Parker *Andrew Van Dyck Died Aug. 1871, at 71.	Dutchess --- Oswego ---	128	"The Essential Dignity of the Profession of Medicine."	Attendance: 48 permanent members, 55 delegates, 25 invited to seats—128. The Inaugural Address refers to the civil war now in progress, and the relations of the profession to it. The legacy of \$500 to the Society by Dr. Cash was announced. Resolved, Hereafter, to open our annual session with prayer. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 531.
57	1863	Thomas Hun Daniel P. Bissell	Albany --- Oneida ---	139	"An inquiry into the degree and kind of influence which the progress of medical science, during the present century, has exerted over medical art."	Attendance: 64 permanent members, 48 delegates, 27 invited to seats—139. Dr. Hun said this State had been called upon to furnish about 600 surgeons and assistant-surgeons for the volunteer regiments going to the war; that the American Medical Association had not convened for two years on account of the war. A Government Army Medical School proposed, also that the American Medical Association should resume its regular meetings without regard to the civil war. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 442.
58	1864	Daniel P. Bissell Died Oct. 29, 1874, at. 72.  Joel Foster	Oneida --- New York ---	162	On Medical Progress.	Attendance: 60 permanent members, 50 delegates, 8 honorary, 44 invited to seats—162. The president referred to the meeting of the American Medical Association in June last, to the Cash prize fund, to the appropriation by this State of \$200,000 for the sick and wounded volunteers. Suggested two or more vice-presidents. The State has furnished to the army and navy about 1000 surgeons since the war began. Dr. A. N. Bell took the prize for best essay on "Vaccination, etc." Gov. Seymour invited the Society to his mansion. The secretary to be paid a salary of \$250. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 503.
59	1865	Frederick Hyde George J. Fisher	Cortland --- Westchester..	154	Medical Education and Medical Pupilage.	Attendance: 64 permanent members, 54 delegates, 8 honorary, 28 invited to seats—154. The Governor invited the Society to his mansion. Dr. Brinsmade offered a prize of \$100 for the best essay on "Medical and Vital Statistics." "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 375.

## TABLE OF PRESIDENTS, &amp;c.—Continued.

No. of M <sup>s</sup> .	Year.	Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	Counties of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.	No. of Representatives.	Subject of President's Address.	Some of the more notable acts of the Society at each session
60	1866	Henry W. Dean Joseph C. Hutchison	Monroe Kings	211	Disease, physiological and psychological, as typed and modified by civilization.	Attendance: 77 permanent members, 71 delegates, 7 honorary, 56 invited to seats.—211. Twenty-three counties sent no delegates. A bill was endorsed to permit county medical societies to discipline their members. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 420.
61	1867	Joseph C. Hutchison Julien T. Williams	Kings Chautauqua	207	Moral Power, not Legal Enactments, the best agency in effecting reform.	Attendance: 79 permanent members, 69 delegates, 7 honorary, 52 invited.—207. Dr. Franklin B. Hough received the Brinsmade Prize for best essay, "Medical and Vital Statistics." Delegates elected to International Medical Congress. Discussions on the Metropolitan Board of Health, on Vivisection, on Registration of Births, etc. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 563.
62	1868	John P. Gray Lake I. Teft	Oneida Onondaga	189	Insanity and its Relations to Medicine.	Attendance: 78 permanent members, 69 delegates, 5 honorary, 37 invited.—189. Forty-three counties sent delegates, eighteen did not. Discussions on Monstrosities. Criminal Abortion, Sloughing from Light Bandaging, Report of delegates to International Medical Congress at Paris. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 120.
63	1869	J. V. P. Quackenbush James P. White	Albany Erie	208	Individual effort and individual obligation.	Attendance: 90 permanent members, 71 delegates, 7 honorary, 40 invited—208. 47 counties sent delegates, 14 did not. The Cash prize of \$100 was awarded to Dr. Hutchison for Essay on "Acupressure." Discussions on acupressure, on frequent meetings of county medical societies, on iron wire sutures, on one-man committees, on pathological stereographs. Dr. Corliss offers \$100 prize for the best essay on Consumption. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 303.
64	1870	James P. White George Burr	Erie Broome	212	Progress in Medicine.	Attendance: 89 permanent members, 77 delegates, 4 honorary, 42 invited—212. 44 counties sent delegates, 17 did not. Delegates appointed to the National Convention for the revision of the U. S. Pharmacopœia. Gov. Hoffman invited the Society to his mansion. Discussions on Colles' Fracture, on Lithotomy vs. Lithotripsy, on Pepsin, on a State medical register, on fancy fracture apparatus. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 429.
65	1871	S. O. Vander Poel Gilson A. Dayton	Albany Oswego	179	Pathological anatomy, the necessity for its study, and its influence upon medicine as a positive science.	Attendance: 60 permanent members, 71 delegates, 1 honorary, 47 invited—179. 43 counties sent delegates, 18 did not. Dr. G. Durant, of New York City, took the Corliss prize for best essay on "Tubercular Phthisis." Dr. F. S. Speir, of Brooklyn, took the Cash prize for essay on "A New Method of arresting Surgical Hemorrhage by the Artery Constrictor," &c. Resolutions to investigate the mortality of abandoned infants and children. The subject of insanity is commended to the attention of medical college faculties. "Transactions," 8vo, pp. 490.
66	1872	William C. Wey Andrew F. Doolittle	Chemung Herkimer	213	Medical responsibility and malpractice.	Attendance: 68 permanent members, 88 delegates, 6 honorary, 51 invited—213. 42 counties sent delegates, 19 did not. The Legislature petitioned to pass a law for the protection of physicians and surgeons in cases of suits for alleged malpractice. Discussions on "Chronic Cystitis in Females," on "Protection of Foundlings," on changing the time and place of meeting of this Society. "Transactions," the last volume published by the State, 8vo, pp. 484.
67	1873	Cornelius R. Agnew B. F. Sherman	New York St. Lawrence	253	Some of the relations of the medical profession to education.	Attendance: 97 permanent members, 79 delegates, 79 invited—253. Report of committee favoring change of time of meeting. A motion was made and tabled, "That after this year the annual meeting be held at Albany, on the fourth Tuesday in September."
68	1874	E. M. Moore Francis Burdick	Monroe Fulton	255	The search for and discovery of law, the true basis of scientific progress.	Attendance: 102 permanent members, 93 delegates, 60 invited—255. Reports on hygiene and other subjects. Many interesting papers read and discussed. The "Transactions" for 1873 and 1874 were published by subscription of members, and bound in one volume, pp. 184, pp. 328.
69	1875	George J. Fisher Harvey Jewett	Westchester Ontario	259	A brief history and review of the Medical Society of the State of New York, with tables, &c.	Attendance: 97 permanent members, 94 delegates, 68 invited—259. Vermont, 3; Maine, 2; Massachusetts, 1; Connecticut, 1; Wisconsin, 1. The time of meeting was changed to third Tuesday in June, 1876. The scientific character of the session was highly satisfactory, the meetings harmonious and largely attended. The first lady delegate took her seat, Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi, from New York County Society. "Transactions" published in New York City.

## TITLES OF PAPERS, ADDRESSES, &amp;c.,

FROM 1807 TO 1874.

## MEDICAL PAPERS.

1821 On the Functions and Diseases of the Liver. President John Stearns' Address.

1832 Prize Essay on Delirium Tremens. Dr. J. C. Cross. 1831.

1834 Dysentery. President Thomas Spencer's Address

" Prize Essay (1828) on the History, Causes, and Treatment of Typhus Fever. Dr. A. Y. Magill.

1835 Prize Essay (1835) on Remote and Proximate Causes of Phthisis Pulmonalis. Dr. A. Hammersly.

1836 Derangement of the Digestive Organs. President J. H. Steele's Address.

1837 An Essay on Typhus Fever. Dr. James Fountain.

1841 Inflammatory Fever. President Sumner Ely's Address.

" Hereditary Diseases. Dr. Daniel Hayne's Address before Rensselaer County Medical Society. 1838.

1843 Typhoid Fever. President Wm. Taylor's Address.

1845 Phlebitis. Dr. Thomas Hun's Address before Albany County Medical Society. 1845.

" Observations on an Obscure Point in Pathology. Dr. N. S. Davis.

1847 Observations on some of the most Common Diseases of the Digestive Organs. Dr. N. S. Davis.

1850 Erysipelas. Dr. John Swinburne's Address before Albany County Medical Society. 1849.

" Morbid Condition of the Generative Organs. Dr. W. D. Purple.

1852 Abstract of a Case of Pleuro-Pneumonia. Dr. S. Shumway.

1853 Observations of the Pathology of Bright's Disease. Dr. J. A. Sweet.

" Report on Diphtheritic Croup. Dr. Morgan Snyder.

1856 Report on Tuberculosis and Tubercular Pneumonia. Dr. C. B. Coventry.

" On the Treatment of Pneumonia. Dr. Saunders.

" Malignant Pustule and Serofulous Gangrene. Dr. Howard Townsend.

" Encysted Osseous Tumors. Plates. Dr. A. Mareh.

" A Case of Chronic Nephritis, resulting in Disorganization and Entire Absorption of the left Kidney. Dr. G. J. Fisher.

1857 Cholera Infantum, Diarrhoea, and Enterocolitis, their Relation to each other, their Pathology and Treatment. Dr. E. H. Parker.

" Types of Fever. Dr. George Burr.

" Case of Death by Syncope from Plugging the Pulmonary Artery. Dr. C. M. Allaben.

" Gangrenous Erysipelas. Dr. W. S. Norton.

" Medullary Sarcoma. Dr. A. Potter.

" Tubercular Splenitis. Dr. G. J. Fisher.

1858 Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. Dr. J. V. Kendall.

" Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. Dr. D. G. Thomas.

" Congestive Fever, Typhus Petechialis, Spotted Fever, Cerebro Spinalis Meningitis, Brain Fever. Dr. T. H. Squire.

" Vegetable Fungus from the Leg of a Boy. Dr. Hawle's Case. Dr. E. Harris.

1859 Prize Essay on Scarlet Fever. Dr. H. A. Carrington.

" Pneumonia Biliosa and Typhoids. Dr. J. D. Watson.

" Diphtherite. Its Prevalence in Albany. Dr. S. D. Willard.

" Rupture of a Cnl de Sac of the Transverse Colon. Dr. H. K. Willard.

1860 General Pathology of the Skin, and its Treatment by Warmth and Moisture. Dr. Benjamin Lee.

" Recurrent Measles, severe Pulmonary Disease, and Derangement of the General Health in the interval. Dr. N. Nivison.

1861 On the Use of Mercurials in Acute Pericarditis. Dr. S. O. Vander Poel.  
 " Bleeding in Cerebral Diseases. Dr. S. O. Vander Poel.  
 " Diphtheria. Dr. U. Potter.  
 " Diphtheria. Dr. F. Jacobs.  
 " Remarkable Case of Suppression of Urine. Dr. A. G. Purdy.

1862 Healed Ulcer of the Stomach. Dr. J. Kneeland.  
 " Synopsis of a Case of Peritonitis, Treatment with enormous quantities of Morphine. Dr. H. S. Downs.  
 " Cirrhosis of the Liver, Enlarged Spleen, and Abnormal Distribution of the Vessels between it and the Stomach. Dr. M. M. Marsh.  
 " Protracted Case of Lameness. Dr. H. Corliss.  
 " Dysentery, Peritonitis, Suppuration, Spontaneous Opening of Umbilicus, &c. Dr. T. C. Finell.  
 " Malignant Pustule in the United States. Dr. A. N. Bell.  
 " Cure of Enlargement of the Spleen. Dr. L. Briggs.

1863 Morbid Growth, Characteristic Symptoms of Cancerous Cachexia. Dr. N. Nivison.  
 " Diphtheria. Dr. A. L. Saunders.  
 " Report on Gangrene of the Mouth and Fauces, observed in the U. S. General Marine Hospital, New Orleans, La. Dr. R. K. Browne.  
 " Small Pox and Varioloid. Dr. H. Corliss.

1864 On the True Indications for the Employment of Stimulants in Continued Fever. Dr. S. Hanbury Smith.

1865 Phlegmoid Erysipelas. Dr. C. F. Gay.  
 " Observations on Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, or Spotted Fever, as it prevailed at Carbondale, Pa., 1864. Dr. C. Burr.  
 " Suggestions Relative to the Pathology of Pneumonia. Dr. S. O. Vander Poel.  
 " Remarks upon a Demonstration of the Optical Principles of the Ophthalmoscope, and its Use in Diagnosing Diseases of the Eye. Dr. H. D. Noyes.

1866 Carbonaceous Lungs, Wound of Heart. Dr. J. K. Boulware.  
 " The Gingival Margin as a Diagnostic Sign. Dr. L. McKay.  
 " An Inquiry Relative to the Subject of the Formation of and Expectoration of Fibrinous Bronchial Casts, with a Cure. Dr. S. Rogers.  
 " An Unusual Place of Lodgement and Exit of a Biliary Calculus. Dr. A. March.  
 " Case of Acute Enteritis. Dr. B. G. McCabe.  
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 " Obituary Notice of Dr. De Witt C. Enos. By Dr. E. R. Squibb.

1870 Medical Progress. President James P. White's Address.  
 " The Life and Character of Dr. Alden March. By Dr. J. L. Babcock.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. Benjamin J. Mooers. By Dr. T. De Ferris.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. Uriel Potter. By Dr. M. Snyder.

1871 Medical Progress. Dr. W. H. Craig's Address to Albany County Medical Society.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. James Hadley. By Dr. J. P. White.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. Minturn Post. By Dr. G. S. Winston.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. Thomas Cock. By Dr. Gordon Buck.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. Phineas H. Burdick. By Dr. H. C. Hendrick.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. Alex. Thompson. By Dr. Frederick Hyde.

1872 Historical Sketch of Oneida County Medical Society. Dr. H. N. Potter's Address.  
 " Obituary Notice of Dr. William Burr Bibbins. By Dr. Ellsworth Eliot.  
 " Memoir of Dr. Edward Hall. By Dr. A. S. Cummings.

1872 Biographical Sketch of Dr. Andrew Van Dyek. By Dr. J. M. Murdoch.  
 " Biographical Sketch of Dr. Moses C. Hasbrook. By Dr. T. B. Smith.  
 " Memoir of Dr. Charles Barrows. By Dr. E. Hutchinson.  
 " Obituary Notice of Dr. John Henry Reynolds. By Dr. R. S. Allen.  
 " Obituary Notice of Dr. Alfred E. Varney. By Dr. C. W. Hamlin.  
 1873 Obituary Notice of Dr. Platt Williams. By Dr. Thomas Hun.  
 " Obituary Notice of Dr. Peter Van Olinda. By Dr. A. Van Derveer.  
 " Obituary Notice of Dr. John Henry Reynolds. By Dr. R. L. Allen.  
 " Obituary Notice of Dr. Darus Clark. By Dr. B. F. Sherman.  
 " Biographical Memoir of Dr. Barent P. Staats. By Dr. Hiram Corliss.  
 1874 Memoir of Dr. Richard L. Allen. By Dr. T. B. Reynolds.  
 " Memoir of Dr. Alexander H. Stephens. By Dr. John G. Adams.

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## PRIZES AND PRIZE ESSAYS.

1808 *First Prize*.—Fifty dollars for the best Report on the Topography, Geology, Mineralogy and Diseases of any County in the State of New York.  
 " *Second Prize*.—Twenty five dollars for the second best Report on the same subject.  
 " *Third Prize*.—Twenty-five dollars for the best Essay on the Causes, Prevention and Cure of "Typhus Mitior," or low nervous fever, prevailing in different Counties of the State.  
 1814 A Prize Medal of the value of twenty dollars for the best Meteorological Table, together with an account of the Diseases of the District during the term of one year, by any physician of any County Medical Society.  
 1824 A Prize of fifty dollars for the best Essay on the History, Causes and Treatment of Hooping Cough.  
 " The Remote and Exciting Causes of Phthisis. Fifty dollars. Awarded to Dr. A. Hammersly, of New York City.  
 1825 On the American Goitre, showing in what sections of the United States it prevails, and by what atmospheric or topographical influences that affection of the Thyroid Gland is aggravated, and the best means of relief and cure.  
 1827 History, Causes and Cure of Serofula, with particular reference to its prevalence and prevention in the State.  
 1828 A Prize of one hundred dollars for the best Essay on the History, Causes and Treatment of Typhus Fever. Awarded to Dr. A. Y. Magill, of Virginia.  
 1829 A Prize of Fifty Dollars for the Best Essay on the History, Preparation, and Medical Use of Iodine. Awarded to Dr. S. J. Holson, of Pennsylvania.  
 " A Prize of Fifty Dollars for the Best Essay on the Nature, Symptoms, Causes, and Treatment of Delirium Tremens. Awarded to Dr. J. C. Cross, of Kentucky.  
 1830 The Causes of the Large Proportion of Still-born Children in our Large Cities over those of London, with Statistical Tables.  
 1831 The Influence of Variations of Temperature in the Production of Disease. Fifty Dollars.  
 " On the Principal Indigenous Cathartes of the United States. Fifty Dollars.  
 1833 The Medical History of Cholera Morbus, previous to the appearance of Asiatic Choera.  
 " The Influence of Malaria or Marsh Effluvia in the Production of Disease.  
 1835 The Influence of Trades, Professions, and Occupations, in the United States, in the Production of Disease. Awarded to Dr. B. W. McCready, of New York City.  
 1839 The Diseases of the Spinal Column; their Causes, Diagnosis, History, and Treatment. One Hundred Dollars. Awarded to Dr. N. S. Davis, of New York.  
 1840 An Analysis of the Discoveries concerning the Physiology of the Nervous System, from the Publications of Sir Charles Bell to the present Time, both inclusive. Awarded to Dr. N. S. Davis, of New York.  
 1850 On the Pernicious Influence of Nostrums and Secret Remedies on the Health and Morals of the Community. Awarded to Dr. J. S. Sewall.  
 1857 A Prize of Fifty Dollars on Scarlet Fever.  
 1862 Dr. Merrit Cash, of Orange County, gives a Legacy of Five Hundred Dollars

to the Society, to be invested, the interest to be offered for Medical Prize Essays.

1863 How Complete is the Protection of Vaccination, and what are the Dangers of Communicating other Diseases with the Vaccinia. Awarded to Dr. A. N. Bell, of Brooklyn, N. Y. (Dr. Cash Fund.)

1865 Dr. Thomas Brinsmade, of Troy, N. Y., offered a Prize of One Hundred Dollars for the Best Essay on Medical and Vital Statistics. Awarded to Dr. Franklin B. Hough.

1869 A practical Treatise on Acupressure. One Hundred Dollars. Awarded to Dr. J. C. Hutchison, of Brooklyn. (Dr. Cash Fund.)

" One Hundred Dollars for the best Essay on the Cause, Prevention, and Cure of Tuberculous Phthisis. (Dr. H. Corliss Fund.) Awarded to Dr. Ghislain Durant, of New York, in 1871.

" One Hundred Dollars (Dr. Cash Fund) for best Essay on any Medical Subject. This prize was awarded to Dr. S. Fleet Spier, in 1871, for an Essay on "A New Method of arresting Surgical Hemorrhage by the Artery Constrictor, designed for the Instantaneous Hermetic Closure of Arteries, without the use of Ligature or other foreign substance to be left in the Wound."

1874 The Dr. M. H. Cash Prize was awarded to Dr. Thomas K. Curse, of Tarrytown, Westchester County, New York, for Essay on "Injuries which happen to the Wrist Joint, as a result of Fall upon the Hand; Luxations at the Wrist, and Radio-carpal Articulations; also, on the Nature, Symptoms, and Treatment of Colles' Fracture, with a *resume* of the Literature of the Subject."

" For the Dr. Cash Prize: "School Hygiene, in reference to the Physiological Relations of Age and Sex to Mental and Physical Education."

" The Committee on Prize Essays also solicit essays for the Brinsmade prize, upon any physiological, therapeutic, or pathological subject, at the election of the competitor.





